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# MACLEAN'S



JUNE  
15th  
2009

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## A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF SUSAN BOYLE

The Scottish singing sensation found instant worldwide fame thanks to the Internet, but is having her troubles with "old" media. First there was a profane confrontation with peppy reporters in the bar at a London hotel. Then the 46-year-old was edged out in the finish of reality TV's *Britain's Got Talent* and lost her eel backstage. Now she has been hospitalized for either "anastomosis" or a mental breakdown, depending on whom you believe. A nightmare ending to her fairy tale.

### Good news

#### Bombs away

The negotiations between Russia and America took a divided course for the better last week with the opening of a joint Siberian plant to destroy the world's largest stockpile of biological and chemical weapons, including the nerve agents VX and Sarin. The U.S., which is already busy eliminating its own stock of nerve gas, provided about \$1 billion to help finance the facility in the Ural Mountains, 1,400 km east of Moscow. The 5,500 tonnes of deactivated killing power will be housed in specially constructed watertight underground bunkers. Scientists estimate it will be 2027 before the job is done, but just knowing they've started will let us all sleep easier.

#### Tackling violence

A fist confrontation between two 15-year-olds at night school rugby match ended last week in a courtroom court with a star athlete found guilty of manslaughter. The victim, Manny Castillo, was picked up as the game ended and slammed head-first into the wall in what the judge called a "basher tackle." There is risk in sport, but athletes are supposed to know that and so are outside the bounds of normal play are criminal. The verdict showed support of the young athlete, who isn't violent often, but it was the right call-one that had to be made by a judge, not a referee.

#### A step forward

Increasingly, it seems that Barack Obama is finding his place. With his foreign policy he has pleased North Korea's new belligerent, Israel's reluctance to issue settlements and talk peace, and a brace in the civil war in Pakistan that his administration's complicity

approach seems to have borne fruit closer to home. Last week, Cuba notified Washington that it's ready to accept Obama's overtures and resume talks on a variety of issues, including migration and the re-establishment of direct postal service between the two nations. The Cubans also say they're willing to co-operate with the U.S. on terrorism and transnational drug trade. Most up, after the trade embargo and reefs in finally ending the Cold War's last battle.

### Bad news

#### Mourning Flight 447

It will be months, if not years, before investigators piece together exactly what happened in the final moments of Air France Flight 447. But this much is painfully certain: 228 people—including a Canadian, 69-year-old Brad Clenn—perished into the Atlantic Ocean after their jet flew into a "sudden wall of thunderstorm" and suffered a massive electrical malfunction. Specialists' consensus, but most theories measured pilots are at

victims "to obtain just compensation from those responsible for further suffering"—from suicide bombers to foreign states. Testimonies, of course, are famous for sliding by the rules, and will certainly honour any decision rendered by a Canadian judge (Justice's youngest son, Brad, the Toronto man imprisoned in Guantanamo Bay. He went to live at his American parents, so it's not clear whether to send your statement of claims.)

#### Cancer crises

It's been a particularly rough week for cancer patients. First, Canada's Chalk River facility that down after sleek was discovered in its reactor. This move deprives the country—and the world—of medical isotopes, used in the treatment of cancer patients. And in Quebec, Health Minister Yves Bolduc has accused the media of first emerging after a report suggested upwards of 30 percent of recent breast cancer tests in the province may be faulty. The "integrity" of the tests, he pointed out, were properly conducted, though he refused to say whether patients should be re-tested. "From now on I ask you to be rigorous in your reporting." The Bolduc campaign might like his own advice.

#### Beaver fever

Beavers have been returned to the wilds of Scotland after an absence of nearly five centuries. Housed in extinction for their gales and reported additional powers, the last time the aquatic rodents were seen in the U.K. was 1936. While the 11 reintroduced animals held from Norway, they might have asked a fellow member of the Commons for advice. A nice symbol, but a bit of a pun, is what we say. ■

#### Osama bin Laden

Victims of terrorism, both here and abroad, will soon have the right to sue for damages in Canadian courts. In yet another "law and order" announcement, Justice Harper unveiled plans for U.S.-style legislation enabling

### FACE OF THE WEEK



A HALF-NAKED Sacha Baron Cohen, in character as gay fashionista Bruno, liberally drags into the MTV Movie Awards

#### Opel's best friend

Cashless auto parts billionaire Frank Stronach, some rumours say, is packing, well finally get his wish to build a whole car. The chairman of Magna International led a consortium, including a German partner, to buy Opel AG, the main European line of bankrupt General Motors. The Germans abdicated in favour of a bid to save some 23,000 jobs. Stronach now runs a tiny new market and has dreams of building in Canada, too. With no Canadian government money on the line, we wish him well, and hope the Opel is good in the snow.

a law to explain how the Airbus A380—built to withstand severe turbulence and repeated lightning strikes—could have vanished from the sky without even a distress call from the cockpit. Authorities can only hope that the black box, now buried at sea, will answer the questions.

# Everything lined up in your favour?



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GM WORKERS: The cost of each job saved in Canada is \$2 million

## We'll pay for this bailout for years



ANDREW COYNE

has killed us. But how in such a fix?

Here's one way to think about it. In exchange for their agreement, the governments of Canada and Ontario will together receive 27 per cent of the equity in "New GM," the start-up-down company that, at a hoped, will emerge from Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection some months from now. On its last day of trading on the New York Stock Exchange, GM closed at US\$60.75 a share, for a total market capitalization of about \$492 billion in Canadian funds. Subsequent to that to 6 billion rise of the overall financial package the roughly \$1.6 billion loans, and our government paid \$1 billion for an equity stake worth just under \$55 million.

That's okay, over the next five years, our governments have pledged to sell all their stake, a little bit at a time. So if the stock, say, quadruples in value in that period, we could get back as much as two cents on the dollar.

Here's another way of looking at it. This year, GM and Chrysler, whose earlier bankruptcy filing was supported by another \$1 billion from the Canadian taxpayer, will sell

about 400,000 vehicles in the country. So you could say there were about 400 vehicles was subsidised to the tune of about \$32,000, or slightly more than the average price of a new car in Canada. Our governments could have bought every one of those cars—initially less than they have actually pledged.

Or here's yet a third way. By the time GM has completed its restructuring, a well-documented 5,000 workers in Canada, just over half the present workforce, and down from 20,000 four years ago. Had our governments not bailed out the cars, we are told, GM would have pulled up all its production and moved it to the U.S. But with the infusion of \$16 billion in public funds, we have a reasonable prospect—no guarantees, mind you—of saving those remaining 5,000 jobs.

So, if we assume that those jobs will in fact still be there five years from now, and if we assume that GM would indeed have closed down its entire Canadian operation in the absence of such largesse; and if we assume that as additional infusion of public funds are forthcoming—such as highly debated—than the cost of each job saved costs over a little under \$1 million.

Finally, say the bail-out's defenders. What about all those spending that depend upon GM and Chrysler? And what about all the specific beyond that? The Ontario premier, Dalton McGuinty, estimates 15,000 jobs would have been lost in the province had

governments not stepped in to save GM. His federal counterpart, Stephen Harper, puts the overall job loss had both companies closed their doors at "hundreds of thousands."

"We'll never know, of course, it's impossible to say how many jobs," would have been lost had something not happened that in fact did. But two can play at that game. For there are opportunities in both directions: the jobs that subsidy saves, and the jobs that subsidy just in rarely deserts. Keeping GM and Chrysler in business means keeping capital invested in those two companies that might otherwise have been invested in other firms and other industries. It means diverting a consumer dollar to purchasing a new car through a car hire, which have been spent on other goods and services. As such, it means the jobs saved at GM and Chrysler come at the expense of other jobs, in other companies. We can't know exactly how many, but we do know they would be as companies that could compare without the benefit of \$16 billion in public support.

And of course the total figure will come to more than that—much more. Because every single cent of those dollars is borrowed. That borrowing is paid the dollar for the Treasury announced the other day, from \$34 billion in the budget to \$70 billion. The previous part of it was due to Ontario's roughly six billion share of the bailout. Ontario's deficit has become swollen nearly \$4 billion, to \$18.4 billion. So to that total bailout of \$15 billion, add billions more to interest. Other spending will have to be cut on other programs to make room for this, or taxes will have to rise.

Let us suppose the lender's bill to be doled out that a six billion of \$15 billion—roughly the



Ken Stan

Chair, CPAC Board of Directors  
Senior Vice-President  
Corporate and Regulatory Affairs  
Shaw Communications Inc.

Ken joined CPAC as Chair of its Board of Directors since 1996. Ken has held a number of senior positions at the Federal Government, including Associate Deputy Minister and served three Prime Ministers. For the past 15 years he has been a key member of the Shaw Communications team that has led in the growth of television, internet, satellite and telephone services across Canada. Ken has been a strong advocate of having CPAC beyond the chamber to increase the coverage of issues and to make connections and to put CPAC in the field doing elections.



Edouard Trépanier

Member, CPAC Board of Directors  
Vice-President, Regulatory Affairs  
Quebecor Media Inc.

With past experience at the CPAC as Director of Operations, Mr. Trépanier and Specialty Services, along with a career spent in broadcasting and corporate affairs, Edouard has an in-depth understanding of broadcaster's regulatory framework. He has been a member of CPAC's Board of Directors since 2002.



Jim Deane

Member, CPAC Board of Directors  
President & CEO,  
Access Communications Co. operates Linc

Jim has been active on CPAC's Board of Directors since 2007. With strong ties to the former Saskatchewan, he previously served as President of the Regina Chapter of CPAC and is currently President of the Saskatchewan Division of the Radio of Edmonton & Board and Vice-Chair of the Saskatchewan Co-Operative Association. Since 2000, he has been at the helm of Access Communications, one of Canada's largest cable providers in the Prairies.



Philip B. Lind

Vice-Chair, CPAC Board of Directors  
Blue Channel  
Rogers Communications Inc.

A visionary who led the cable industry in its push to have CPAC included as a full-time public affairs channel in 1993. Phil has been a key player in CPAC's development and evolution. Vice-Chair of CPAC's Board of Directors since 1992, he successfully negotiated agreements with the House of Commons to increase the scope and quality of coverage offered by the Public Affairs Channel, and is a round-the-clock source of political and public affairs programming.



Yves Mayrand

Member, CPAC Board of Directors  
Vice-President, Corporate Affairs,  
Capgemini

A respected regulatory lawyer with over two decades of broadcasting and television experience, including two years with the CPAC's legal department. Yves has been a member of CPAC's Board of Directors since 1996. Currently Vice-President of Capgemini Corporate Affairs, his industry know-how comes from a long career involved in communications.



Robert Buchan

Secretary, CPAC Board of Directors  
Partner  
Foster-McMurray Sullivan LLP

Robert has served as legal advisor to CPAC's Board of Directors since the channel's inception in 1992, and has more recently acted as Secretary for the Board. Partner of Foster-McMurray Sullivan LLP, a member of the law firm known by its countless landmark cases in broadcasting. Robert is one of the country's most respected legal advisors in broadcasting and telecommunications.



cost of another two percentage points on the C&S—would destroy many thousands of jobs? Would there not be a great tax and cry outcry? Yet the money be removed—and it is delayed, but larger tax increase—and clearly it's free money. No one could the jobs destroyed as a result of economy, only the jobs saved at GM and Chrysler.

And it was all so unnecessary. GM is in bankruptcy today, it could have been its own sign. Instead, it directed, partly in hope that government aid would preserve it from this fate, which is presented as an unthinkable calamity. And all the while it went on losing money, at a rate of about \$100 million a day. All the billions we are pouring in now do not even cover the losses incurred on the market. All we will get for our money is the right to pour in more in the years to come. ■

ON THE WEB For more Andrew Coyne visit his blog at [www.macleans.ca/andrewcoyne/](http://www.macleans.ca/andrewcoyne/)

## There's no faking a playoff beard



ANDREW COYNE

We are now well into the last round of the NHL playoffs, with the Pittsburgh Penguins once again up against the Detroit Red Wings. Sometime this week, the Stanley Cup will be held aloft and carried triumphantly around the rink by an ecstatic group of players who haven't shared in success, and who now look like nothing more than men in togas from a Sans Souci resort.

Most fans are familiar with the opening world's-fair unique superstore types. Like the baseball player: Wade Boggs, who famously ate chicken before every game, or the hockey player under the hockey mask, who liked to talk to his girlfriends. Pittsburgh captain Sidney Crosby gave hockey personae a twist after his team beat Carolina for the Prince of Wales trophy to make it into the final round: he posed up the trophy and carried it around last week, when one touching the thing is considered bad luck.

Crosby defended himself by saying that he didn't touch the trophy last year and thus lost in five games, so he was simply trying to change that luck. But there is one question in the world's mind with the growing of the playoff beard.

Legend has it that the NHL playoff beard tradition was started by the great New York Islanders teams of the early eighties, when players such as Denis Potvin, Bob Nystrom, and Bryan Trottier decided it was bad luck to shave during the playoffs. It is now standard practice in the NHL for all players to stop shaving and their team either to maintain or wear the Cup, but in this case it goes beyond mere superstition. With the playoff beard, NHLers have hit upon the simplest and most authentic form of masculine display in all professional sport.

Here is why it is so great: In a sport like basketball, the forms of masculine display that players adopt—such as Afro hair, gold jewellery, and various tattoos—tend to be borrowed from the sport's celebrity culture. Whereas the significance of the playoff beard is rooted in standards of values (instead to hockey stuff). The hockey beard serves as a very visible marker of success: the longer you go in the playoffs, the longer your beard. Everyone can see it, and everyone knows what it means.

Not all beards are created equal. Players like Detroit's Dax Carey or Montreal's Patrick Marleau from Pittsburgh seem more like disappointed men on skates than professional athletes. Sidney Crosby and look like a prepubescent with slopesh. But there's a naturalistic colloquial bar, as all its fans, that speaks to the fundamental authenticity of the display.

From the peacock's tail to the Porsche, masculine status display throughout the animal kingdom tends to be a bit of a bluff. But NHLers stand apart from showy birds, and die hard men, and men on skates, who have lately started substituting outer signs for real diamonds in their masculine orientation to bling. There's no faking the playoff beard. In an era where technology too often seems to have triumphed over athletics, with the players' unique physicality constrained by the smooth, hard soles of their skates, the beard is a naturalistic sign of status being signalled here, namely, manliness. The NHL playoffs provide a bit of much-needed PIR for the male of the species at what is shaping up as a very complicated time for masculinity. As the masculine consensus to deconstruct the masculinizing industries, men are finding themselves displaced personally and thus to the margins of economic life, a shift that

threatens to become permanent. As Margaret Worton argued in a recent essay for the *Globe and Mail*, jobs in the new economy require female style emotions, not mainly muscle, and somewhat the worse for men.

Economic downturns tend to produce these crises in masculinity, and unfortunate moderns might struggle to recall the "free jobs" crisis of the early 1990s. It certainly can't help that this time around, two of the most alpha male industries, automobiles and finance, have been effectively gelded by the money star, and the growing feeling that men are increasingly obsolete is underscored by some unenviable statistics: men on Canadian unemployment are 40 per cent and hold onto a proportion of professional programs such as medicine and law. Only engineering and the physical sciences are still mostly male, and not by much. It is hard to avoid concluding that, after being

underpaid and in charge for millions, men no longer have any special skills to offer the world. The writing is on the wall, and it reads "no long, it lies."

Here, the machos of nature in many ways more in demand than ever—witness the rapid popularity of TV shows like *Dawson's Creek* or *Ice Road* *Survivors* or even *Die Hard* *Hunter*. But it's precisely their association that makes these shows so fascinating, and they give more men the same, vaguely humorous feeling they get from using hand-own pornography for the first time. There are men who can do that.

All of which leaves regular guys in a peculiarly odd and lovely conundrum. It may right help explain why growing a beard is becoming increasingly popular for hockey fans once their team enters the playoffs: it allows them to participate in one of the last symbols of male solidarity.

Not every man can shave, shave, or grow a beard, which is a terrible as well as the players on the ice, but the one thing they all have in common is that they are men. That where there's solidarity there is competition, and some men may find a minor satisfaction in knowing that even if they can't play like their heroes, for a few weeks every spring, they can look like them. ■

ON THE WEB For more Andrew Coyne visit his blog at [www.macleans.ca/andrewcoyne/](http://www.macleans.ca/andrewcoyne/)

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## French comic **Dieudonné M'Elia M'Bala** on why he called Jews slave traders and why he's running for the European Parliament

A CONVERSATION WITH MARTIN PATRIQUIN

French comedian Dieudonné M'Elia M'Bala has entertained and provoked his native country for nearly 30 years, most recently with his one-man shows that touch on race, religion and domestic violence, among other controversial topics. In 2006, he fell out of favor with French media and political establishment, as well as his own fans when he deleted his endorsement of Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the far-right Front National party, going so far as calling Le Pen a godfather to his daughter. Along with running in the upcoming European parliamentary elections as an anti-Zionist platform, Dieudonné is performing his *Dieudonné* show in June, where he promises extremely popular despite (or perhaps because of) the controversy surrounding him.

**Q** You are well known in Quebec but not in English Canada. Please introduce yourself.

**A** In French with Adrienne. I'm 43 years old. I have been a comedian and a comedian for the better part of 30 years. I have a particular comic style that provokes a particular reaction from my contemporaries.

**Q** This is the point? 'Zionist a racist'?

**A** Yes, that's what I really love playing with: geography, religion and ethnic boundaries. It's an interesting game for me. Here in Canada, you call it reasonable accommodation. Everything that divides people is interesting to me. I have a lot of fun with that.

**Q** Tell me about your newest show.

**S**endrine.

**A** Six years ago I did a show called *La divine de Québec*, which was based on a friend of mine. I said that six years on, and he's married to Sendrine. It touches on the subject of conjugal violence.

**Q** How do you find humor in that?

**A** Humour is a rich territory for comedian. Conjugal violence is just the opposite to the story. The rest is about Sendrine.

**Q** It's quite a bit less political than your previous shows.

**A** After that, but it's also, especially here in Quebec where it is a problem.

**Q** Did you write it under Quebec in mind?

**A** I wrote here, obviously, so maybe. But this is a political show in a way and a woman is universal.

**Q** You are still very popular in France, even after you called yourself Jean-Marie Le Pen. Why are you a popular in Quebec?

**A** It's all relative, really. I had a sold-out show in Paris last December with 400 people in the audience. I would say that I'm still as popular there, it's just that I'm in conflict with certain political and media elites.

**Q** But you are welcomed in Quebec with open arms.

**A** Yes, yes. Quebecers are less affected by the controversy that surrounds me in France. I have a pretty big following here. The rap of the media in Quebec is much more favorable. That's what I find remarkable.

**Q** The word is starting to wear on you.

**A** Yes, a little bit. But that doesn't matter because I don't work for the media. I work

for myself.

**Q** A columnist for *Le Monde* recently criticized Quebecers for tolerating, even celebrating, your shows here. We said that in France, even if your Jewish words have had the effect of denouncing your popularity, whereas in Quebec you are totally accepted.

**A** That in itself is a harmful view, and it shows a lack of respect for the Quebec public. He should at least respect that I have a right to say what I please. And anyway, he's giving my publicity. An emotion, buzz, it's not positive or negative. It just is. I'll take either. I'll play the bad guy if that's what they want.

**Q** You were quoted as saying that Jews were slave traders who became bankers, and that the yearly commemoration of Auschwitz is "racist propaganda." At the same time, you say you are anti-Zionist, not anti-Semitic.

**A** I don't consider myself an anti-Semite. I am supported in my political opinions by a large number of Jews, whose parents were victims of Jewish atrocities during the war. So, I'm an anti-Zionist. It is a political project that is on par with apartheid, and it must be revised.

**Q** But did you say that Jews were slave traders who became bankers?

**A** I was addressing all Jews [I was addressing a bunch of Zionists who came into one of my shows in Lyon, and who were screaming that Israel will be victorious, death to Palestinians and that sort of thing, and they applauds] 15-year-old girl who asked the show. That part wasn't in the paper. These people

were Zionists. And because I was talking about slavery during the show, I made the parallel with Zionists. I was quoted out of context, but if you look at the transatlantic slave trade, which was legal for 400 years, you are among the readers people who were bankers, people of all sorts of backgrounds, but especially Christians and Jews. To say otherwise is to lie.

**Q** You've broken up and gone back together many times with your long-time collaborator the *Semiotique*, who is Jewish. What did he think of your show with Jean-Marie Le Pen?

**A** He is a human race, and politics are dangerous for people in business.

**Q** One of the strange things is that his cousin, Patrick Brel, successfully sued you for libel after you called him a liar and a scoundrel of the Israeli military on a Quebec television show. Have you paid him the \$75,000?

**A** It's not finished, and we should let the wheels of justice roll on.

**Q** A lot of attention has been paid to what you've said about Jews, but it's worth noting you've also made lots of headlines.

**A** In my show I go after my concentration in my film. The divided communities, and the borders that divide us all, are a game to me. I play with them, and they get out of control. But that's a good example. The Muslim community has never been hostile toward me. It's like they have a better sense of humor.

**Q** Doing what he did in it, say, then would be slightly more dangerous than in France.

**A** Maybe, but we aren't in Iran. We are certainly in a country where we can laugh and have fun. The problem is that France is a country that is under the thumb of the Zionist lobby, and because of this the reaction to my words wouldn't be out of place in a religious state.

**Q** People here say you dump bile and suggest you are promoting hatred.

**A** I don't want to promote hatred.

**Q** Le Pen has said you're evil things.

**A** He's been quoted as saying some things, but I'm not really reacting against him for the European Parliament.

**Q** How does he rate as a godfather to your daughter, France?

**A** Ah, you are talking about the prostitution of my last show, *Je suis France* [I'm playing the idiot], where I used a promotional strategy that was based on prostitution.

**Q** To say the least.

**A** It's a way to promote my show.

**Q** But he is a godfather to your child?

**A** You can't ask a magician his tricks. What I can say is that it was a way to intro-

duce my show, and in the first 10 minutes of the show I briefly told the story of getting Le Pen to be my daughter's godfather. I mean, the whole baptism thing was [my wife] I have a profound respect for Christ, but the Church? No. I think punning over the head of a child does anything? That's open to debate.

**Q** Still, I'm not religious at all, but as a godfather to my nephew's long-lost friend I call, and I wonder if Le Pen does the same.

**A** I'm not sure. She's only one. I think most people are for whatever, a very provocative humanist performance.

**Q** You are a nuisance at marketing yourself.

**A** Yes, I am.

**Q** You say the whole thing with Le Pen was a joke, but it wasn't perceived that way in the French media. Was that your intention?

**A** You have to properly bite the media, otherwise you don't get good news.

**Q** I wonder if you are going to get Hugo Charest to be another godfather to one of your children, just to put more people off.

**A** That would be less probable, I think, because I'm more in line with Charest's politics. It would be less shocking.

**Q** The Wall Street Journal recently said you're going from being a leftist extremist to the extreme right. Is that your intention to confuse everyone?

**A** I don't know if it's to confuse. It's more to start debates, to make people question themselves.

**Q** As December you brought on Malcolm X and Robert F. Kennedy on stage and played how much we missed for "social inseparable and knowledge," given to him by someone dressed up as an Arab with a prosthetic arm. How would you rate that?

**A** At that point I was preparing another show for which I needed original material. Le Pen was done, and I needed something even better. And the most uncomfortable was F. Kennedy. He is a person who deserves history to the second second appropriate.

**Q** So you were playing a joke on an American.

**A** Yes. He deserves the existence of the person who is giving him an award, and I've been giving the award. But I wanted him because I'm very attached to the concept of freedom of expression. And again, I got the reaction I was looking for. There was a wave of indignation.

**Q** So you are still playing the idiot, then.

**A** Of course! It's a thing.

**Q** How stable is it as a way your exterior as politics is an extension of your comedy?

**A** Look, Sade has shown that you can be an idiot and a politician at the same time, so why not me?

**Q** Everything about your campaign should be anti-Zionist.

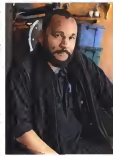
**A** The Zionist movement is extremely strong, and we need to challenge it.

**Q** You seem to be in a hurry. What after this one Zionism is Europe's job platform?

**A** It's the biggest European platform beyond the American NATO side. Like Hugo Charest, it's a move toward the right. It is a movement against colonization, for a better distribution of riches, which also has any sort of ethnic discrimination.

**Q** The French authorities are trying to take you from running. In doing so, you received more attention.

**A** Yeah, the person who said I should be banned was Sarkozy's spokesperson, Claude Gaudet. He said it on a Jewish community radio station. I now call my press as media.



**'In my shows I go after extremism. The borders that divide us are a game to me. I play with them.'**

**Q** It's his another one of your shows.

**A** I know the world happens.

**Q** I understand why they are mad at you, but why try to put you from running? I think your ideas are well-founded and subtle, but I defend your right to run in an election.

**Q** They go to the end. I don't think my thoughts are subtle, but I accept that you don't have to agree with me. I disagree with what Zionists are doing to France, I think it is a very harmful and narrow-minded movement, but I would never try to ban them. That would be giving them free publicity.

# NO WAY TO RUN A RECESSION

**The bad news piles up, and the stimulus cash is slow coming**

**BY JOHN GEDDIS** • If there's one place the federal government might want to showcase its push to spend billions to stimulate the economy, Vancouver would be it. With the 2010 Winter Olympics coming up fast, the city is about to come under intense international scrutiny. The occasion has added many British Columbia building trades workers who were, until recently, largely busy by a booming West Coast construction sector. Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson says he's ready to put many of them back to work on municipal projects, but hasn't won approval yet for a single cent of a projected pushback of federal infrastructure spending—funds the Conservatives vowed would flow fast after their budget more than four months ago. "We'll love to put those dollars to work creating jobs and investing in our infrastructure," Robertson told *Maclean's*. "None have arrived yet."

Gripes like Robertson's just aren't fair, say Ottawa's down-low economic ministers. Their point man John Baird, who's responsible for the federal infrastructure plan, argues that he's approving projects "in six weeks faster" than similar programs in history. And that might well be true. But the standard he's up against isn't past performance; it's the black-market set in Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's eagerly worded June 17 budget. "Measures to support the economy," the budget declared, "must begin within the next 130 days to be most effective." Then again, that was the same budget that projected a \$13.7-billion deficit, and the figure, as Flaherty admitted in a July May broadcast, has ballooned in four short months to more than \$19 billion. It seems positive measures are taking longer than hoped to materialize, while the bad news is piling up even faster than feared.



GOVERNMENT-BORN economy: Prime Minister Harper (in centre, Transport Minister Baird

is this one to run a recession? The psychic shock of the massive new deficit guarantee, combined with crumbling over the pace of stimulus spending, has set the federal Tories back on their heels. After Prime Minister Stephen Harper cavalierly dismissed the chance of a recession in last fall's campaign, and Flaherty pushed out ongoing surplus in his yearly 2009 economic update soon after the Tories could hardly afford more until aid flows in their economic credibility.

But still they live. Flaherty protests, not unreasonably, that there was no way he could have known back in January that Ottawa's share of building aid General Motors and Chrysler was going to run about \$7 billion more than he'd banked on. But what about the other \$7 billion or so that his program was off? That's mostly a result of bleak economic news, including lower tax revenues and higher Employment Insurance payouts. Given the way the world was spinning into a deep recession by July, late Flaherty could have played a prudent chess, say Simon Fraser University professor Richard Harris. "They would have been hampered by offering a wider range [of the deficit]," Harris said, "and steering that because the global recession was so unusual, the politicians were less reliable."

If the deficit has been inflated, all the government's aggressive talk about ratcheting out stimulus spending now seems even more reckless. Not only did Flaherty set that 130

day benchmark, which the bank economist called "a joke," he stressed the need for spending to come in 2009, not in 2010. "Stimulus for next years is not what we want," Flaherty declared on Feb. 25. "We need it now, this year." Yet, most of it will almost certainly come in 2010. Asked about how much of the key \$4 billion infrastructure stimulus fund will flow in 2009, Baird answered: "I would say beginning this year, at least 40 per cent of it." Few private-market economists expect the stark impact of the budget's cost stimulus package to be felt in 2009. "It's not going to do what the initial intent was," said RBC Finance Group chief economist Craig Wright.

Still, even economists who think the Conservatives misjudged setting up and selling a year's and a half to make no way into the real economy. Given that thousands of a pre-empted slump, spending even on that pace will still be more than welcome if it takes well into next year to translate into construction stimulus spending. "It would still then tend to be quite important," Wright said.

Following a clear majority of the whole federal infrastructure plan is almost impossible. It's a \$12 billion money target with several distinct parts run by various departments. It's rolling out at different speeds in every province, according to a quagmire between Ottawa and each provincial government. As Mitchell went to press this week, Baird said decisions were imminent on applications for 2,700 Ontario projects, which could tap \$1 billion in federal money. A big Ontario announcement would make the whole program look more relevant. Still, even Baird isn't talking mainly about shovels in the ground now, or this summer. "I think once the fall," he said, "there's going to be a hell of a lot of construction going on around the country."

In an interview, Flaherty pointed to quick action on other aspects of his stimulus plan, including the \$2 billion fund for college and university projects. Campus construction work has been funded at a much faster pace than municipal projects, partly because they don't require the same level of government to agree to chip in. Flaherty said he's been keeping up the pressure to spend. "I've been an almost silent within the government in terms of demanding urgency," he said. "There was some reluctance, government being government." Some bureaucrats, he noted, are worried about responsibility being caught two or three years from now.

There's no question that rushed approval came at the cost of oversight. Even an opposition critic asks what they call due action by the government to fix, Baird said, 1,200 infrastructure projects worth \$1 billion were approved between budget day and June 1.

There is much more to come, an everything from a half billion dollar fund for recreation infrastructure to another half billion for First Nations public works. "It's a gargantuan effort," he said.

Not enough must be known to a report, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and the world economy will contract by 7 per cent this year, the same year since the Great Depression. The OECD singled out Canada, along with Germany, as a country that should do more to stimulate its economy than its government can afford.

And given enough loans across the world OECD nations—including about \$60 billion in Canada since the fall financial crisis struck—Harris said more government spending might not be to badly needed. "If we don't get

some sign soon of employment stabilizing in the OECD," he said, "we're going to need a bigger stimulus package."

The prospect of still more deficit spending as a dampener. Yet, while the Tories agree to keep up with the still unfolding recession, some economists expect the government's situation to longer survive the decision of the historic downtown Avroon Lane, which was a senior federal business bureau. As a president of the Forest Products Association of Canada since 2005, he says, he was ready for the radical shift in economic decision making that followed his fall in the recession. "The whole global economy," Lazar says, "has made a step from market-driven to government-driven in the last three or four months that really as one had anticipated and no one has really acknowledged."

A key question, he said, is how rationally governments, including Canada's, will extricate themselves from rules they've stepped into during the crisis.

Lazar contends the recession is an opportunity to tear real reform to loose. Canada's competitiveness, the subject of more talk than action during a long, protracted strike going back to the mid 1990s. "From we had the cheap-dollar as the economy was doing well but was not doing well for many years to make reform," he said. "Then we had the petro-dollar and government didn't feel the need to make any reform."

As history has noted, Canada went into the recession in a really strong position. Yet, said, having done from the down economy remains a possibility. One of Canada's long-standing economic weaknesses is low research and development spending. Now, two of our top six R&D spenders have highly doubted future. Nor because of a technology protection and Atomic Energy Canada Ltd. because the federal government has put it up for sale.

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PHOTO: GREGOR ROBERTSON/STYLING

# STOP THE MADNESS

**Fixing question period would help the country. Here's where to start.**

BY PAUL WELLS

WE ARE NOT an awful people, but we have an awful politics. How'd that happen? Any chance we can make it better?

We are not an awful people, and we don't elect unworthy representatives. This doesn't get mad and often enough, but your members of Parliament are good people. They are decent men and women who spend quite lives, endure the indignity of electoral campaigns, leave their loved ones at home and get weekly to Ottawa. They bring long hours and steady nerve. They want nothing better than to help their constituents.

Then they get here and hear like jackasses for an hour every day. They have to listen, undisturbed by wit, scorn, the criticism of the Commons. They're shocked when the other side does the same. In the galleries above, strong men and schoolchildren yell their spite.

Recent highlights have included an alien zone spent debating whether Prime Minister's authority is sufficient, was right to describe carbon taxation as a "tax trap". On another day, opposition members called 22 times for Finance Minister Jim Flaherty to be fired. Probably after, if I don't know, the 15th time they could have moved on. A few days before that, the Liberals got tired of backdoor Conservative admissions that they're planning to raise taxes, so the Liberal also decided it was their turn to secure the Conservative's planning to raise taxes. Also without any loss in truth.

Near a third of the way an accident. It's meticulously planned and rehearsed by hundreds of politicians and their staffers across the parliamentary precinct. They run before dawn to pose over the headlines and give the day's strategy. Opposition members start building a breakfast for a part at the house. Government members meet over lunch to rehearse their evasion and their outrage.

Question period isn't the root of what ails our politics. But it is most certainly the bad, the wrong, the KICK ME! HE! NO sign where everything we have about ourselves is wrong every day. The half truths, the confused fury, the mostly accurate spite, the real



humiliation of the thoughtless or evasive. And above all, the waste of time, energy, hope. So what can we fix it?

THIS IS EASIER and then done. Most MPs are sophisticated about changing question period because they are tired of getting somebody else in a bad light. So we might reform it out of the question. But maybe we could do something to make sure the way we make our way into this room, with a series of scheduled minor decisions. Anywhere but in Ottawa, my suggested changes would seem small and odd. Together I think they could change the culture of Ottawa. And not a moment too soon.

**1. STOP RUSHING.** Since the mid-1990s, question period has been run by a strict 15-second clock. No question may last longer than 15 seconds. No answer may last longer than 30 seconds. The rules of decorum are, say the most, loosely observed. But that 15-second rule, hey they watch that one like hawks

Here's a fun experiment: the next time you're arguing with your spouse, use a stopwatch and failed everyone from speaking longer than 15 seconds. No, wait. Bad idea. It won't end well.

The rapid enforcement of the 15-second limit is a relic of the '90s, when the advent of Reform and the Bloc Québécois proved a less party Commons. More parties would save time for everyone in the daily circus. But since 2003 there have been only four parties. That should give everybody more time. So the first step change the current cadence of day, is to increase the time for every question and every answer to 45 seconds. That's 25 per cent increase in the time for every intervention. Enough time to allow everyone a decent

**2. DON'T LET THEM COVER FOR ONE ANOTHER.** Only one member dares to the U.K. the prime minister is only expected to show up for one question time a week (the story: prime minister's questions, or PMQ,

MPs ARE decent men and women who want to help people. Yet every day, for one hour, they bely like jackasses.

Appear only once a week in London, on Wednesdays for half an hour. It used to be once a week, for 15 minutes each, but they like one-sidedness into one session in 1997.

Hard to believe. Hard to tell us suggest any one opening to such a set up in Canada, that the advantages are obvious for everyone.

Let's say we spread that Canada's prime minister would only be needed for one question period a week. And let's split the rest of the week up, so common members would face questions on another set day, and local

policy ministers on another, and foreign, defence and trade ministers on yet another. Suddenly it's a lot harder for the government to give the opposition the familiar run-around. Questions would have to be taken by the responsible minister because nobody else would be there. Putting only the PM on the grid, or only a few of his ministers on any day, would spread the scrutiny around. It would allow more issues to be discussed in a week. It would let the PM, guest of the Commons, where he could spend more time visiting the rest of this enormous country—or even travel abroad.

True, the opposition could no longer use one hapless minister as a patsy for months on end. And the government couldn't have one hapless ability player in there. Pierre Poilievre's interest in every question while the rest of the cabinet snoozes.

**3. GET UP OUT OF THE WAY.** With more time for each question and answer, and with the scrutiny spread more evenly among the PM and his assorted ministers, question period would already be more efficient and lively. But it will become too large in the parliamentary day. It will draw too much energy away from productive work.

Can't hear the chairman already. Too much energy! How can you say that? It's the theme of accountability mechanism. These change opposition MPs have to get some information out of the government.

Of course this is nonsense. First, if question period were run as such only a small ability mechanism, those days are long gone. Access-to-information legislation and the Internet have done more to open up government than a bunch of rhetorical posturing in the Commons ever could. Second, to the extent that question period distracts from those other mechanisms—and from the legislative process to general—it hinders their proper operation.

The time devoted to "Q&A" in every party is more than can be devoted to any other thing. Because it takes the widest, it widens the whole day. Parliamentarians work and 2 p.m. to get ready for the half-day session, end the remaining time after a trying to succeed.

So schedule question period for finishing in the day, usually 3:30 p.m. Suddenly every

## JEAN GETS TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER

"I think a person who's position knows exactly what's in the air and is aware of the current. But the real heart is a part of the way of the thousands of people in our country it is well-administered. It is vital for them. It is done in a sustainable way. A very respectful way. There is no second the diversity of realities." —Guy G. Hebbel, a man from the heart of the heart and industry after the first top said heart at a community festival in Moncton.



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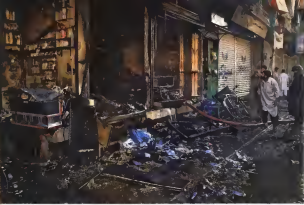


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# PAWNS IN A FATAL GAME

**Pakistan's people are trapped between their own leaders and radicals in a bloody civil war**  
**STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY ADNAN R. KHAN**

The eerie silence along the narrow lanes of Karim Pura Bazaar, in Peshawar's old city, is deafening. Some things are missing, and the absence weighs on the few shopkeepers brave enough to open for business. On any other Friday, after the obligatory afternoon prayers, the rows of tailor shops here would be doing a brisk business. But not today. A few lawns are over, in Kabul Bazaar, one of dozens of electronics districts in the capital of Pakistan's restive North-West Frontier Province (NWFP), the charred and mangled remains of shops offer a glimpse into what

has happened: a day earlier, two bombs had detonated in motorcycles exploded there, killing five and injuring dozens more. In the aftermath, much of the old city's business bazaar district has remained closed.

A few hundred kilometers to the north in Swat, the Pakistani army is pressing to the world that it has what it takes to defeat the Taliban threat. They have seized Miranshah, Swat's famously picturesque main city, after a massive offensive lasting more than a week. The few reporters straggling out of there, even through the efforts of military-guided media

teams, show a city in ruins, virtually devoid of its residents and lacking any of the businesses—shops, food, water, electricity, medical facilities. For the millions of people displaced by the fighting, there is nothing to return to like the Kabul Bazaar, their world as it was.

The fighting in Swat is not over. A new offensive has begun in Chitral, just north of Islamabad, and once that is over—sometime this week, according to military officials—Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari has promised to shift the focus to another front: in the war against Islamic militancy, the Waziristan region of the Tribal Areas. There, a June 1 bombing of several high schools and an attack on a Taliban fighter has shaken Pakistanis (initial, erroneous reports said more than 500 were abducted). Though the military claimed to have freed all but one student by the next day, other reports said that some students were still being held. Civilians have become targets, prone to the brutal between secular government forces and radical Islamists for control of their country.

There is no doubting that Pakistan is in the midst of a civil war, with all of the fear that breeds. Under massive international pressure to end the Taliban scourge on their soil, the government seems committed to finishing this battle. But the Taliban cannot be crushed out. On May 22, a major blast in Lahore, targeting the offices of Pakistan's security services, killed 24 and injured another

200. Peshawar is particularly vulnerable. Since May 22, at least four bombs have slipped through the city, killing some 23 people and injuring hundreds more. Like Baghdad during the height of its sectarian violence, Peshawar now features a deadly mix of criminals, extremists and government provocateurs. The U.S. government has warned its citizens to stay away, and Pakistanis authorities have banned the foreign press from coming to the city for fear of having to deal with a David Pearl-like incident.

"There is no security in Peshawar," says Syed Asif Razi, a senior member of the NWFP provincial parliament. "We have two little police who are under armed and under equipped."

## The morgue held four bodies. One by one, Fazli Rabi uncovered their faces. His nephew wasn't there.

They can barely handle normal activities, let alone armed militancy. Security services in the city are now preparing for an assault by militants: streets have been blocked off and numerous checkpoints set up at vulnerable locations. Still, for Pakistan's politicians, there is the comfort of armed security guards and fortified offices. For civilians, there is only confusion. "Everyone is living in fear for their lives,"

says Rabi Bahadur, a 50-year-old electronics shop owner in Peshawar's Kabul Bazaar.

For Bahadur, the consequences of the recent violence have been all too tragic. At 5 p.m. on May 28, he received a call from a friend at his home in a village near the Khyber Tribal Agency, on the outskirts of Peshawar, telling him there had been a bomb blast near his shop. When he phoned his brother, who was at the scene, he was told that his 17-year-old son was dead, a second son, 14, was injured, and a third, 12-year-old, 11, was missing.

At the blast site, Bahadur's shop, which he'd inherited from his father, had been

reduced around a single question: who could have carried out such a crime? There were no police or any other security services in the area. The dead were all civilians.

When the search turned up nothing except a shoe belonging to the missing 12-year-old, Rabi Bahadur, accompanied by a few of his friends, went to the Lady Reading Hospital, a 30-minute walk from the blast site. There, the scene was chaotic: distraught family members searching for their own missing loved ones, ambulance attendants struggling to make their way through the crowd as they brought in the wounded and the dead. A group of men had gathered at the back looking to the underground morgue. Rabi Bahadur pushed past them.

Inside the morgue, four bodies lay on gurneys, covered with bloodied sheets. One by one, Rabi Bahadur uncovered the faces of the dead. It wasn't him, not among them. After another two hours of searching through the hospital, he finally located 12-year-old—also the young man had been lying in the head injury ward, without a shirt and multiple lacerations to his head and face. Doctors, overwhelmed by the crisis and lacking staff to help transport patients, asked Rabi Bahadur to take his nephew to the X-ray department, located in a separate building. With the help of his friends, he took 12-year-old there, where doctors confirmed there were no broken bones. With the danger of internal bleeding

**HOSPITAL WORKERS** attempt to clean the blood out of Fadi Rabi's nephew's head.

In the head, though, a CT scan was needed. But as Fadi Rabi carried his nephew out of the X-ray department, crowds of people began running for the hospital's exits as gunfire sounded near the emergency ward. One screamed, "Get out! The Taliban have taken over the hospital!" Fadi Rabi pulled the garney behind a brick pillar. The CT building was a mere 20 m from where he had taken cover, but some of the fleeing people had gathered in front of it, trying to force their way in for a safe place to hide. Fadi Rabi, though, was determined, and pushed through the throng. One man tried to grab him, shouting that suicide bombers were coming, but he shook him off and continued toward the building, forcing the garney through the door. The scan was performed immediately. Over the next 35 minutes, the crowd thinned and the paramedics wheeled him to the patients' ward without any incident. His team came back soon, he would make a full recovery.

Fadi Rabi has learned that the chaos had been the result of heavy security guards firing as they set up the crowd in an ambulance could get through. The plan worked—although not exactly in the way they had intended.



The next day, under the shade of a hastily constructed tent in a dusty clearing in his village, Bahadur performs the funeral for so many who have come for the traditional condolences gathering following the burial of his youngest son. "This is God's will," he says. "We cannot blame the fate of our

## As he carted his nephew out of the X-ray department, he heard gunfire near the emergency ward

deaths. It is written in our God's ledger." The gathering performs a prayer for the dead. The bomb blast a wild flash on their minds. 24 hours ago some of them were sitting through the hours of rain in the hospital's shop, taking collapsed walls and looking for Ismail's body. Their jobs will seem someone by the recovery. And he must bow his head in prayer, he stands up and walks into the family home.

While his brother was looking for Ismail in the Lady Reading Hospital, Bahadur returned to Peshawar to take his dead son home in an ambulance. In Islamic tradition a body must be buried as quickly as possible, so even in the search for life was still going on, the importance of the dead was being placed. By the time he reached home, Bahadur's wife

had made all of the preparations. "She was strong," he says, "but forget this: she was strong." He says, "but forget this: she was strong."

Bahadur doesn't blame the government for the tragedy that has befallen his family, though he is so fearful to blame the Taliban as well. Instead, he patiently prays the quick response of the emergency services, without which he might have buried two sons. Some have done exactly that, and worse. In Peshawar, everyone seems to know someone who has lost a family member or friend to the violence plaguing their part of Pakistan.

But while Bahadur seems resigned to what happened, among others anger and frustration are the dominant themes. On the street

of Peshawar people assign blame to a full spectrum of culprits, from the Taliban to the Pakistani government itself, whose members, many claim, are maintaining stability in Pakistan's northeast. Washington continues to pour money into the country. "This is all a big game," says Muzaffar, a car parts dealer in Shahr-e Bazar, also in Peshawar's old city. "It doesn't matter who they kill, as long as the money keeps coming. There we are, poor and suffering, afraid to walk in our own streets, and there they are in Islamabad pretending to care when we all know that the only thing that matters is the use of their bank accounts."

In times of conflict, of course, conspiracy theories are always prevalent. They add to the crippling strangeness of death—one that Fadi Rabi admits he has fallen victim to. "I don't think I can walk Peshawar's streets again with our fear that a bomb is going to go off at any moment," he says after re-emerging from the house. "Whenever I see a motorcycle parked on the side of the road now, I will not pass a motorcycle. I think what I will see is death."



## ETHICS

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**ETHICS  
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**Gaffes aside, Sarkozy seems to find Obama's glow a little annoying**

It got worse: his work when it emerged from the French government did not invite Queen Elizabeth II to commemorate ceremonies marking the 60th anniversary of the D Day landings during the Second World War. Back



"It is as though France can never forgive Britain for saving it," wrote Steven Clower in the *Daily Mail*. A column by Peter Allen in the same newspaper bore the headline, "What did YOUR dad do in the war, Sarkis?" and suggested that Sarkis's reluctance to reveal

now work together more closely within NATO. Despite Wilson's scandalous ouster, Sarkozy is probably the best friend of America Obama could hope for in a French president. He ought to do well to consider inviting Sarkozy back to the States for another briefing. **M**

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## THINK





## 'IT DIDN'T HAPPEN'

**China's youth swallow the 'official' account of Tiananmen Square**

**BY CHARLIE GILLIS** • At heart, they were romances. Scooped in the ideology of self sacrifice, recognized by their faith in collective will, the protesters who marched and sat and sang in cities across China in the spring of 1989 were the logical extension of the government's own propaganda. "We'd heard all the revolutionary stories, we'd watched all these patriotic films," recalls Rowena Li, who was 17 when she joined a protest in Guangdong province, one of dozens in the days leading up to the bloody crackdown on Tiananmen Square. "We all believed we were fighting for a higher cause. And we were taught that it was good to die for something more important than ourselves."

Their ritual was often violent. The day after the military action on Beijing, she wore a black armband to school on her first anniversary, only to have a teacher haul her aside with a bright warning to get rid of it. "It is that that began a period of re-education, the full effect of which is only now coming clear." Throughout China, the events of June 4, 1989, reverberated from the public conversation, while schools forced students a national version of those pivotal weeks. Each spring, the word would sneak into a friend's history report to commemorate the Tiananmen anniversary with different university students. But, eventually, her sense of solidarity became unbearable. In 1998, she left for graduate school in Canada, vowing to ensure

her "betrayed memories" were never lost.

If she succeeds, it will be no thanks to the current generation of bright, young Chinese men. Twenty years after the government unleashed its tanks on Tiananmen Square, the deep-eyed students of Peking's elite have grown up to a new demographic wave of hardened nationalists—ambitious children of the elite who not only reject first-hand accounts of the period but actively push Beijing's competing version. Now a post-doctoral fellow in Chinese studies at Harvard University, the frequently outspoken student leader was at academic conferences. Two years ago in San Francisco, she listened in dismay as one visiting student challenged her depiction of Tiananmen as a step backward for their homeland. "Sure a few lines were lost: the god thing, but the military crackdown was needed to restore order, and with order has come stable development and growth." "These students got very angry with me," he says. "All I can do is tell them that this is what I know about Tiananmen."

For veteran China watchers, the shift is troubling, not least because it reflects broad scepticism inside the country of the political status quo. "This is the stuff everyone's been fed for the past 20 years," says Tim Brook, a

former WEARE HERE activists who wrote a 2004 book about the 1989 protests.

USC historian and the author of *Quelling the People*, a book about Tiananmen. "China has grown prosperous, there is undeniable wealth [among the privileged], and so there's this determination not to look behind or to the tale at what might have been." This despite the fact that 85 per cent of the population remains in poverty, or that the number of public protests grew in tandem with the Chinese economy after 1989, reaching a peak of 10,000 in 2005. While provincial authorities claim those numbers have declined, an official account suggests the downturn in the global economy has stolen assets from labourers, farmers and small business owners, resulting in protests throughout the country last year.

So if the younger generation doesn't push Beijing toward democracy and civil rights, who will? Is China doomed to the current form of capitalism with one party rule? The answer, say some activists, may lie in a new, broader-based support network growing up as part of the local post-1989. Join Wangxin Lou, a China specialist with the Moscow-based group Rights & Democracy, goes to Charu Li, a prison calling for equality under the law, an end to one-party politics and the establishment of electoral democracy as a means of raising the level of Chinese society. First signed by 181 prominent lawyers and former Communist party members, the document gathered more than 8,000 signatures, ranging from grassroots Web savvy youngsters, before authorities purged it from the Internet. "What you have is a rights protection movement made up of grassroots activists," says Lou. "Take a look among the elite in the party, there are people who are sympathetic to this movement. So I'm not pessimistic."

Importantly, says Lou, the new reformers don't see themselves as radicals. Rather, they want China to embrace its evolution, along with the international leaders of human rights that it has adopted. They are the middle, an elite of ordinary—anonymous individuals and organizations seeking change through legal means. Beijing already was that, a century after setting its flag, hundreds of signatures to China 100 under house arrest. But the movement nevertheless often hope for more, and in a country where youthful idealism is a fading memory, any kind of hope is welcome. ■

### SWITZERLAND: HUNKY FARMERS TO SILENCE CRITICS

Switzerland has taken a lot of flak recently for its refusal to give up the names of tax evasion suspects hiding in the country. To draw attention away from banking policies, the Swiss Federal police are releasing a "finger-in-the-ear" cinematic featuring photos of pissed-up, half-naked men playing with pots and melting tyre. Hundreds turned out for the celebration—apparently in a rather short-cut attempt to show the Swiss people's best side.



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## Rio's bold plan to wall in the favelas



When the Dona Marta slum was walled in, its property values rose

**BY PATRICIA TREMBLE** • In a city eerily divided between rich and poor, the 10 local new walls that will enclose some of Rio de Janeiro's biggest shantytowns are seen by critics as an attempt to seal the upper classes off from the violence endemic in the slums.

"We had the Berlin Wall, we have the walls of Palermo," says the director of the "complexified Nobel" awarding institute, Jose Saragat, who is the mayor of Lousã. Others point out that the existing ghettos will do nothing to solve Brazil's deep social divisions. But politicians have not been swayed by the outcry and Sergio Cabral, the state governor of Rio, is pushing forward with the \$20 million plan to build massive three-meter high walls around 11 of the largest shantytowns, called favelas. Cabral's main rationale is that the walls will prevent the slums' rapid growth from destroying the last of Rio's urban jungle. "We are protecting the forest," said Ivo Menezes Jr., the public works chief. "We're not dividing people."

Roughly 20 per cent of Rio's 16 million people live in slums. Though some of the older favelas, with their solid houses and paved roads, have a bit of middle-class status, many are full of densely packed shacks, together with shacks with few amenities. Garbage is strewn everywhere and sewage flows through the streets. Drug gangs control many slums, and police, who themselves have a reputation for violence, enter only in force.

Cabral acknowledges that the barriers and these security measures are just a ploy to gain control of the slums. And for the poor residents, protection from the gangs may be the wall's palatable benefit. The city's model is the Dona Marta favela, perched high on a mountain site, that was taken over by police in November 1978. In addition to putting up the wall, the government built concrete walkways, a dispensary and even a free train line that drops property values a rather hefty doublet. ■

## 'Death wells' in Turkey tell a dirty story

**BY KATE LERUW** • Along the highway that runs through southeastern Turkey toward Iraq, wells poke up through the cornfields a pastoral image, yet these well shafts are thought to hold a dirty secret. They're being opened up by an excavation team, working under armed guard, as it searches for the remains of hundreds of civilians who vanished during the conflict between Kurdish separatists and Turkish security forces in the region during the 1990s. These "death wells," it seems, may have made the perfect hiding spot for the bodies of victims.

In 1984, the Kurdistan Workers' Party launched an armed struggle against the Turkish government to fight for an independent state. Since then, an estimated 40,000 people have been killed in southeastern Turkey. In the mid '90s, when the conflict peaked, villages were razed and civilians suspected of supporting separatists vanished. The German magazine *Der Spiegel* reported some were dumped in the wells, while others were drowned in ponds and left in fields as a warning.

Many people their fingers at towns, a secret war within the Turkish government. While the army's existence has never formally been acknowledged in official documents, the Kurds were created last year in a treaty that ended alleged members of Ergenekon, an ultra-nationalist group accused of plotting to overthrow the Turkish government. Kurds are now on trial, and Kurds are watching closely.



Hundreds vanished. The walls are being searched for remains.

Pressured by Kurdish families seeking to learn the whereabouts of their loved ones, lawyers have been petitioning for a thorough investigation, including opening up the wells. "Our first demand is to find the bones of the missing," says lawyer Abdulkadir Yildiz. "But the most important thing is to identify those responsible for their disappearance, and punish them." Already, some bones and cloth have been recovered. ■

## Which body is the real 'Red Rosa'?

**BY PATRICIA TREMBLE** • For 90 years, admirers of Rosa Luxemburg have laid red scarves on her gravestone in Berlin's Friedrichsfelde Cemetery. Now, forensic expert Michael Tschorn is "We put our scarves" that he's found the real corpse of Luxemburg in the dump basement of Charité hospital. All he needs is a DNA match.

"Red Rosa," as the pioneering Communist and feminist was known, was executed in January 1919 after being captured in an unsuccessful revolt. She was shot in the head and her body dumped in the Landwehr canal. Five months later, after the spring thaw, a waterlogged corpse was recovered from the canal,



The new body lacks a head, but the legs and age are a match

identified by pathologists as that of Luxemburg and quickly buried. However, Tschorn, head of the Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Science, recently found a cadaver—minus head, feet and hands—in the hospital's historical anatomy museum. A CT scan indicated she had been under water and that the woman, like Luxemburg, had a big nose, osteoporosis, as well as legs of different lengths. In addition, the woman was between 40 and 50 years old (Luxemburg died at 47) and carbon dating confirmed that the corpse was from the correct era.

Then Tschorn reviewed the original autopsy report and noticed discrepancies, including no mention of bone abnormalities or the rib-bar bones used before her murder. Plus, a second examiner wrote an addendum doubting the corpse's identity.

Tschorn now searching for genetic material extracted from materials handled by Luxemburg, or DNA from a close relative, to prove his theory. "A hat would be nice," he told the BBC, because he could confirm a hair. He's also trying to find Luxemburg's nose.

Regardless of whether the corpse is identified, Maria Calar, spokeswoman for the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, believes the Communist's legacy will remain intact. "The world over is thought of as a revolutionary force," she thinks—millions visit her grave each year—and the wall above her sits, regardless of where her body ends. ■

# MEDITERRANEAN



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## Why Canadians have to wait for the coolest new gadgets BY COLIN CAMPBELL

There have been no shortages of e-book sleepers, but earlier versions of the Kindle have flown off shelves. Amazon.com sold an estimated 500,000 Kindles last year—and was sold out of the device over Christmas.

But here's the thing: you can't have one. When the Kindle DX goes on sale this summer (for a hefty US\$499), it will be available only in the United States, just like earlier versions of the gadget. Amazon has given no indication that it's headed for Canada any time soon. "We haven't announced a new



Amazon.com is not what you'd call an insular company, and you can hardly accuse it of being overly obsessed with the Amer-

Negotiating these kinds of technicalities can be time-consuming, especially in Canada. When Apple decided to start selling iPhones here—only after the initial launch in the U.S.—it started to cool—it had to go through Rogers Communications. It's still the only cell carrier with the advanced web tools to support the iPhone user. "Everybody has got a market that they have a vested interest in and in the Canadian market there are a few power players you've got to deal with," says Strauss. "But the kinds of hoops that tech companies must go through. Neither the carriers nor the tech companies can really be faulted for wanting to get the best deal possible, but it's



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including the recently popular U.S. shows like *Saturday Night Live* and *Henry* as well as sports (including NHL games) and news, making the day after they first air. With the backing of NBC, ABC and Fox, it's set to revitalize YouTube and to revitalize *Twitter* and even the wealth of free entertainment and to give an apologetic message that videos are only as trivial as *Dr. Oz* when the United States is "Why? Learning, Research, Access," says Michael Geist, a law professor at the University of Ottawa who specializes in technology and the Internet. *When Can I* in broadcast, like *CTV* or *Globe*, buy



Although the only good news Canadians have had is the announcement last week that Apple will start selling current episodes of U.S. cartoons on iTunes Canada stores. Unlike *Mad Men*, it's not free. Single episodes will cost about \$2.50 to download. By gosh, it's something many Canadian fans of U.S. television have been waiting to hear for years.

**A**kihabara is a section of Tokyo, Japan that's often referred to simply as Electric Town. With its bright lights and bustling collection of high-tech vendors, it's like Times Square on speed. If Canada is in the technological slow lane, Akihabara is the autobahn, where companies end up when they want to unveil any new technology and run it out on open roads.

There are good reasons why Canadian scholars are trying to be more like Alkhataba, and it's not just to placate impatient consumers. Ben Coussens is the dean of arts at the University of Waterloo and has written about technology and innovation in Japan. He argues that there are some big economic advantages to being an early adopter of tech products. To begin with, most companies are inclined to set up shop in a place where they can easily test new techologies. "If your target markets are outside the country, it's really hard to stay on the cutting edge." Research in Mexico, which makes the BlackBerry, is based in Waterloo, Ont., but even it tends to set out new products in the United States before they're released here. "If you have to launch in other coun-

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otics and worry about how that works out, that can be really time-consuming and really frustrating for an organization," he says.

Even more troublesome is the fact that companies that are slow to adapt lose out on the immense sales spike that comes with each new platform. Take, again, the iPhone. After it was launched, hundreds of U.S. companies and individuals started developing applications for it. An entire industry has emerged around this new piece of technology. And while Canadians waited for the iPhone, they also missed out on the early stages of that development. "The technology is only the starting point for innovation," says Costas. "The future of the high-tech economy is equally on the application side." The same thing is happening with the Kindle. "The Kindle is a terrific device," says Green. "It's the sort of thing that would be great for Canadian authors and books. But the spinoff effects here, the benefits that accrue to creators, are being lost."

Compared to the U.S., Canada is far developing a reputation for being a market that's

the Association of Canadian Publishers. Publishers are already racing to put their books into digital form so they'll have plenty of options to head over to Amazon.com if and when it brings the Kindle south of the border. There are no rights issues standing in the way of Canadian books: they're already being sold on Sony's eBook reader, which is available in Canada (though it lacks the



## RESTAURANTS

The size and diversity of the U.S. market means restaurant choices are more profitable and easier to run than in Canada, says Doug Fisher, president of the restaurant consulting firm FWS International. So there are more options. Only in America will you find:

In-N-Out Burger, White Castle, Iner's Coffee & Tea, Baja Fresh, B.F. Chang's, Chick-fil-A and Nathan's Famous.

friendly to new technology. We may be highly regarded for our mathematics and engineering and science, but not for being a place that can translate that into commercial, high tech applications," says Costas. Our tech skills are not much of an excuse either—places like Finland, Israel and Singapore are regarded as cutting-edge nations. And that is a strike against Canada. "As this new economy unfolds this stuff will be 10 times as important as it is now and we're either on top of this or we're lagging way behind."

Canadian publishers, meanwhile, are anxiously awaiting the arrival of the Kindle. It will help give new life to Canadian books and help them reach new markets, says Daria Barry, the director of digital services with

wireless capabilities that have people so excited about the Kindle).

There is no easy way to repair Canada's underdog tech reputation. Costas argues that Canadian companies and electronic retail stores could stand to be more aggressive, and demand that their "only in America" products be brought here sooner. Aside from the occasional Internet rant, there's been no push to try to speed the arrival of the Kindle. Others suggest that a more competitive communications industry would make it easier for companies to negotiate service agreements. For now, the only real alternative is patience. But that's another commodity that's in short supply in the world of consumer technology. ■

### CALLING THE KETTLE BLACK

A Florida delivery truck driver showed remorse for his co-worker when, on a sweltering hot day last month, he allegedly locked him up in the back of the vehicle, valued \$121,500 from the safe and took off. He wasn't on the run for long; his co-worker popped the emergency hatch and called authorities. Once arrested, he said the company owned him because it should have paid overtime and benefits, and complained that it misheard its employees.

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# THE GAME GURU

**Microsoft exec Don Mattrick may change how the world plays**

**BY JARON KIRBY** In 1982, at the age of 17, Don Mattrick created his first video game. Unlike the *GoldenEye* franchise that he was helping lay the foundation of Nintendo's game industry, and taking a first step toward his wife's appearance on a stage in L.A., shoulder to shoulder with disc jockey Steven Seagal, Mattrick, head of Microsoft's video game division since 2007, was a featured speaker at the Electronic Entertainment Expo And when he came lead premiere on his solution to the way people play video games.

Cod-named Project Natal, it was sophisticated cameras and microphones to translate each body movement into action on the screen. No buttons or joysticks. No wireless controller to swing around. If you want to jump, swing your arm and talk, you're ready to play. But if Mattrick's background is rooted in those tri-ups and racing games, his real ambition is far greater: He's using the con-

cept of Xbox gaming system to lead Microsoft in a battle for control of your living room.

Rumors that Microsoft was up to something began to circulate in mid-May, and like clockwork, critics predicted yet another London, just as the company's *Xbox* music player has failed to put a dent in sales of Apple's *iPod*, many thought Microsoft would roll out a new version of Microsoft's wildly popular *Wii* gaming system. When the Japanese company replaced the traditional game controller with the motion-sensitive *Wii* control stick in 2006, it sparked a stampede to the checkout counter that its rivals could only envy: *Wii* launching *Wii* Microsoft handed more than 50 million systems, while Microsoft, which debuted its *Xbox 360* a year earlier, with its vast console sales of 16 million (*Xbox 360*), with lifetime sales of 22.7 million, is in third place.) But a test drive of the Natal technology last week at the company's summit in Redmond, Wash., put to rest any *Xbox* wish.

It's hard to put into words the experience of seeing the digital manifestation of your full body come to life on a TV screen. In one

**MATTRICK WALKED away from Electronic Arts, and soon reinvented Xbox**

case game that Microsoft showed off, a transparent character (which looks like a wall of light) whenever moves one makes, so matter how fast, forward or back, left to side, even twirling around, they are instantaneously replicated in the game. "Your gestures, your body and your voice become the controller input," says Mattrick, 45, sitting in his cramped office. When, after an intense five minutes of game play, Xbox creative director Kudo Tsutsuda wiped his brow, his digital counterpart looked equally exhausted. "If you've given up in the world as a human being you should be able to quit in the game," says Tsutsuda. "The only experience you should need to play our games is life."

In some degree, Mattrick has been on the hunt for such technology for years. From the time he developed his first game—*Evolution*, which followed an amoeba as it worked its way up the evolutionary chain—he realized two barriers were preventing games from widespread acceptance: poor graphics and cumbersome joystick controls. Despite those hurdles, the video game industry continued to grow, and with it, so did Mattrick's ambitions. With a scholarship, he launched a game developer which sold in 1991 to California-based Electronic Arts for \$15 million, joining EA Canada. Today the Canadian division employs nearly 1,400 people and produces some of the most graphically intense sports games on the market. His success also earned the attention of Spielberg, who placed Mattrick up a decade ago and asked him to join the advisory board at the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts. Meanwhile, Mattrick steadily rose through the ranks at EA to become head of the company's world-wide game studios, and was widely seen as a candidate to take over as CEO one day.

Then, in 2006, he abruptly resigned. Mattrick says he wanted to spend more time with his wife and their two children, while planning his next move. In 2007, Microsoft approached him to be an advisor at Xbox division, and after a few months he joined the company full-time as senior vice president of its user interface and entertainment business. (He still lives in Vancouver, spending about three days a week in Redmond.) The move to the tech giant, with its deep pockets and focus on research, was a natural fit for the entrepreneur, says friends. "I've met Don only twice in video games, because that would put him in the category of just being a video game guy," says Barry Gold, another Vancouver technology executive. "He really loves the game of business and with Microsoft he saw a lot of very smart people who understood what's going on and who he could use to boost his skills."

It didn't take long for Mattrick to make his mark. In 2008, the Xbox division earned its first profit in seven years. The company has also dramatically increased the number of subscribers to its *Xbox Live* service, which gives users access to multi-player games and digital media content. Of last year's 20 million subscribers, half opt to pay \$60 a year for premium content. And last year Microsoft

announced a partnership with Morgan Securities. "It's an island. I go to Facebook and the stock in Facebook [Microsoft] has taken one social network and layered it on top of another social network, *Xbox Live*," says a friend, instead of being in the *Facebook* social network, which is on the top.

Still, for now more of the focus in the industry will be on Project Natal. As Spielberg said

**'IT'S NOT ABOUT REINVENTING THE WHEEL, IT'S ABOUT NO WHEEL AT ALL,' SAYS SPIELBERG.**

up with the *Natal* video rental service to let users download thousands of movies and TV shows. "We're trying to make the living room a magical place to do things that people have dreamed they should be able to do, but haven't been able to do until today," he says.

This week's announcement in L.A. only extended Microsoft's reach into the living room. Starting this year, Xbox customers will be able to instantly watch high-definition movies through an online rental service. The company will also integrate social networking sites Facebook and Twitter into its online offering, a move that analysts say is potentially huge. "Social networking was always missing something," says Michael Pachter,

at the E3 conference, it's "not about reinventing the wheel, it's about no wheel at all." In bringing it to life, Mattrick targeted researchers from all across the company, some of whom have been quietly toying away for decades on things like motion sensors and voice recognition technology. While the device won't be ready for market in 2009—the company is being tight-lipped about the launch date—Microsoft says it will work with all existing Xbox 360 consoles. The company is now working with developers to create games that exploit its capabilities.

Finally, the device is, in some judgment on *Natal*'s gaming potential, will be seen more as a tool for entertainment than as a device

to use with. "It's functionality is really phenomenal," he told Mattrick after trying it out last week. "The question is, will there be enough solution to make this more than a very cool novelty, and I don't know the answer to that." But the analysts note that *Natal* will have far beyond the confines of video games, and that's where he sees the biggest potential. For instance, users will be able to browse through video files with the wave of a hand or those photos with others online simply by reaching out to their TV screen, like Tom Cruise in the movie *Minority Report*. *Natal* even has facial recognition technology. By simply walking in front of the camera a player would be logged into their personal *Xbox* account and then gain access to their Facebook page.

For Mattrick, this is all a far cry from the simple eight-color game that launched his career. In fact, as he describes the possibilities offered by the new technology, Mattrick almost seems surprised at what he and his team produced. "When we started with it, we said, 'Oh my God, this is the future brought to today.'"

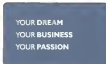
And what does Bill Gates, who long ago predicted the Internet would become the centerpiece of the living room, make of it? "He thinks it's pretty cool!" ■

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# SEX, DRUGS & ACROBATS

On the eve of Cirque du Soleil's 25th anniversary, a new book exposes the stunning rise and wild times of its billionaire founder **BY BRIAN BETHUNE**

**A**s a approaches its 25th anniversary on June 16, Cirque du Soleil is solidly entrenched as one of Canada's greatest entertainment and business success stories. From its almost mythical origin as the creation of a group of young Québécois idealists, hard-working, hard-living, acrobatic-minded street performers led by a (fictitious) five-headed named Guy Laliberté, the Cirque and its postmodern, surreal first productions now span the globe. Laliberté, who used to sleep in parks while performing for spare change, performed his extraordinary dream and ambition—and rode the wave of Quebec nationalism unleashed by the Parti Québécois election victory of 1978 (premier René Lévesque was a crucial early Cirque supporter)—into becoming one of Quebec's top billionaires. On the eve of his 50th birthday, Laliberté's \$1.2-billion personal fortune now

puts him at number 261 in *Forbes'* ranking of the world's richest people.

As for the Cirque's other founding myth—this is long, strange trip has always been a no-drag, drug-fueled odyssey, according to Guy Laliberté. *The Fabulous Story of the Creator of Cirque du Soleil* (Timothy-Duncan) hardly exceeds reality. Author Ian Halperin, a journalist and gossip writer whose previous unauthorized biographies include *Glow Dogs*, *Behind the Party*, and *Lower Deck: The Memoir of Brett Coburn*, argues that a heady "Sex mix of hedonism and social conscious-ness has always marked the Cirque. Halperin, a Montrealer, is from that world—he had an uneasy platonic relationship with Laliberté's ex-wife, who is now his wife, described at length in the book, even as he eventually sided with Laliberté in their split—and he approves of his subject's sex for life. Especially Laliberté's, of whom Halperin writes that he shares the author's own "conquer-

able desire for life's pleasures balanced with a passion for social justice, traits we know as an iconoclast."

Still, even Halperin was howled over by the "Porno Cirque" account provided by one version of the Cirque's early days. "Annie," who worked there for years as an acrobat and part-time choreographer, describes a sex-obsessed world, where the Cirque's upper echelon, a dozen or so, for acrobats, became, when stirred or drunk, "like animals about their circus." In its early days, says Annie, working for the Cirque was an unpleasant, dangerous and stressful job. "That's why we were all fleeing each other's brains out at night. We needed a release."

As for drugs, Annie claims there were so many around the Cirque that it could have been called the biggest pharmaceutical operation in Quebec. "Whatever your drug of choice was, there would be a clown, a magician, or a performer to supply it." She's amazed

that so many performers were able to carry out their acrobatic circus acts unaided. Annie explains that backstage before a show, while the audience was piling into the tent, people were running around like crazy, half-naked, excited, and scared out of their minds, like her, having lost intimate sex. "We'd barely have time to catch our breath," she says. "You disengage and then head right on stage. I liked to live on the edge. But I think every one in Cirque lived that way."

If they did, some were working flat out as the summer, and one in particular showed a hard-edged practical side. In the summer of 1981, Guy Laliberté was a slim, good-looking 29-year-old fire-breather with long blond hair. He took part as an acrobat's inbreathable but commercially successful fire circus festival in Blue-Str-Paul, a resort town about 100 miles east of the Quebec City harbor. According to Halperin, Laliberté took the lead in

dipping the festival out of its \$10,000 hole, as "the only person involved capable of doing the math." He convinced organizers to make it better in the future, to replace acrobats with more seasoned acts, and—surprisingly to his idealistic companions—proposed the novel idea of charging for admission. In 1982, the festival was an artistic and financial success, and Laliberté was looking for new ground to conquer.

The 1984 celebration for the 450th anniversary of Jacques Cartier's arrival in New France provided the means. Although Quebec's PQ government was on the whole lukewarm to the very idea of providing funding for an 800-festival-headlining enterprise, possibly, Halperin says, because the province's interest was also intensely involved with several Cirque numbers. His government provided a \$1.4-million grant. Laliberté's

group formally adopted the name *Cirque du Soleil*—because, one associate told Halperin, "Guy worships the sun as if it's his god"—and the first production opened on June 16, 1984, in the Cirque.

Laliberté made him his circus was a success during its 11-city provincial run that year by throwing himself into what would become his signature networking ways. He gave grand parties, and provided Cirque tickets (and party invitations) to anyone he thought might be of use in the future. He also drew his own line. Low pay, long work hours and consequent unhappiness, mediocre performances almost scuttled the Cirque on an unsuccessful 1988 Canada tour in 1989. Even an emergency \$150,000 bailout from Lévesque wasn't enough, and Laliberté had to go up in hand to all the houses he had an awkwardly built up, impressed by his artistic vision and, even



THE CIRCUS: At Royal Albert Hall, Laliberté is a visionary with an "unconquerable thirst for life's pleasures and a passion for social justice"

ARTIST: PHILIPPE PÉRON/LE CIRCUS DU SOLEIL

more so, by his usual humble self-confidence and charisma, they came through for him.

By 1988 and the Cirque's invitation to Vancouver's Expo 86, Laliberté had already brought on board cutting-edge costume designers and musicians, and moved from traditional circus fire to single-concept, postmodern productions. *Le Maga Cirque* featured pyrotechnics not only Quebec but Cambodia, Mexico, Holland and elsewhere. It hit an upscale demographic, with most spectators between the ages of 21 and 45, and was successful enough to spark an entire new team from the Los Angeles Arts Festival. It was an offer rich with chances of both reward and risk.

The LAPF promised to hand out a million flyers in advertising, but couldn't afford to finance the Cirque—it would have to perform for a percentage of gate receipts. In short, success would literally open a world of opportunity, while failure would mean, in Laliberté's words, that "the Cirque would have to walk back to Montreal." Laliberté, as always, took the chance, being true to mission: his marketing opportunities by sending the cast out to raise L.A.'s interest in culture. On opening night it all worked out, when the film of Michael Jackson, *Madonna* and *Jessie* came. Johnny Carson brought several Cirque performers onto his show, and audiences started changing their way of thinking.

In the next few years, Laliberté successfully resisted the siren call of Columbia Pictures (after he refused he would lose control of the Cirque), convinced New York, fought off both in-entertainment takeover threat and performer disavowal (a 25 per cent new world-wonder southern draw), and became very rich. But Cirque workers hadn't seen anything yet. For Laliberté had developed a Vegas obsession. "The love of everything about Las Vegas," recalls a former Cirque executive, "from the hot weather to the casinos to the atmosphere on the strip. He knew that everyone who came to Vegas came for one thing to spend money. Guy wanted success in there. What he needed was the right person to offer the right opportunity."

Rejection by Caesar's CEO J. Terrence



GUY LALIBERTÉ, dressed in black and carrying him around the world (clockwise) with model Patrizia Piccinini, Olivia Newton-John, Ringo Starr, Yoko Ono and Paul McCartney; his girlfriend Claudia Barila



EXCLUSIVE EXCERPT

## HOW TO PARTY LIKE A CIRQUE STAR

BY IAN HALPERIN

Laliberté's second Grand Prix party in Montreal every June attracted 15,000 fans from all over the world. The Sunday night after the big Formula One race, Laliberté would host a bash at his sprawling mansion in Saint-Basile that was usually open to lasting a few days. It became the highlight of the year for the world's jet set crowd. Years later, Laliberté had to move the party to an airport bar because of recurring complaints by neighbors about the midnight noise level and loud partying. Everyone who attended was used.

"I have attended the finest parties all over the world, but nothing that compares to this," says Mylena, a Milan-based Italian model who experienced several of Laliberté's parties.

"Everything you wanted was available at Guy's parties—drugs, the best music put by famous DJs from all over Europe and the U.S.A., and the wildest sex you could ever imagine."

Many people in Laliberté's inner circle worked for months in advance to plan his big bash. One of his close friends, "John," recalls when Robert De Niro attended in 2002 while in town shooting the film *The Score*, which turned out to be legendary. Marlon Brando's last flick before he died. De Niro was known for dating beautiful black women. "I rounded up the hottest black actresses, prostitutes and models in Montreal and invited them to Guy's party," John recalls. "Guy likes to do anything and everything to please his guests. He wants them to have the taste of their lives at his parties. [He knows a special guest like Italian wine, he'll have the most expensive bottles flown in. There are bottles you'll never be able to get at a liquor store in Montreal. Guy pays attention to detail in everything he does. And he spurs no response."

Laliberté's mountainous house in Saint-Basile was an architectural gem. Its security system was one of the most sophisticated in the world. Laliberté had his own personal and immense gardens filled with snow off all continents-old trees.

But guests at his parties would be asked to sign confidentiality agreements before being allowed entrance. Gorgeous women from all over the world were often present,

in addition to many of the world's leading entertainers, arts, and business insiders. The fun would usually last several days before Laliberté would instruct his staff to turn on the ground's "spinster system," which was the signal that the party was officially over.

"Everything was permitted," says "Abby," a stripper from Las Vegas who was a regular at his parties. "It topped out for four days. There were tents, garages, and rooms set up for everyone to sleep in. During the party there were bedrooms available for people to have sex in. A lot of virgin male people 'blew their first' at Guy's parties. It was quite the experience."

Despite Laliberté's women also police themselves at his parties, he refused to look on his close friends. But he made them promise to turn a blind eye to what was happening.

"Essentially it was give and take with the police," journalist Emmanuel Chouksey says. "Guy would let them in if they promised to behave and have a good time. Lots of cops party hard when they're off duty. It was a brilliant strategy on Guy's part to make sure the place didn't get busted, since there was so much sex and drugs. He needed to do something to ensure a SWAT team didn't descend on his house in the middle of the party. It would have created headlines all over the world. He managed to avoid that."

Nevertheless, says a close friend of Laliberté's, "By 2003, there was a lot of them on

NEW ORLEANS: JOHN KENNEDY/CONTRAST GALLERY; ALBUQUERQUE: PHOTOFEST; PHOTOS: VINTAGE/ALAMY

**ACRYLATE CEMENTS**, available as wall surfaces (left) —

Guy to tone it down. He moved the party to the Saint-Hubert airport and in recent years has just had one month-over for the Grand Prix weekend. He got tired of dealing with all the crap involved. Because of previous complaints he made sure no drugs were in the open and he put a tight no-tion on how things were organized. It was a fair cry from his parties a few years back when everything you can think of was totally out in the open."

One group Laiberte did keep up all forms was Quebec's notorious chapter of the Hells Angels. Although he casually knew several leading members of the biker gang, he didn't go out of his way to invest them in his parties.

"He wanted to make sure that his parties would stand out and were off without any trouble," one of Labierre's close friends says. "He was never one to try to mix with folks or make a scene. He knew a lot of them, but in Montreal it's rare to find someone on the party scene who doesn't have some connection to them. I never noticed him at his parties, if they were there, they certainly see not wearing jeans, just jackets and leather pants. They would have any involvement or more frequent."

The friend adds that around a thousand of the guests at the main party would leave the grounds of the mansion the following morning, while several dozen would be invited to stay on and enjoy the next couple of days.

he keeps," the friend says. "They were treated to luxury—the best food, the best drink, and relaxing time in the sun. The weather in December that time of year is usually amazing. Everyone's in a great mood because the sun is out and summer is in the air. But then again, Guy's farming is usually as possible."

Lubbock's trademark gruff entrance to his start would be in the early hours of the next morning, when he'd appear high atop a platform that was visible to the huge crowd. He'd be shirtless, with the huge scar on his back visible to everyone. Within a few seconds he'd start breathing fire out of his mouth, the way he used to when he was a buster in the early Six. It was the rallying cry of his old inner self. The crowd would go wild, and a huge cheer would engulf the arena's communal

Before Laibson performed there would be an array of Casque du Saïal type performers strutting their stuff, including acrobats, jugglers, clowns, mimes and fortune tellers. But none could spark the pulse of the crowd with the same intensity and humility as Laibson. He was a more vivid and thus more welcoming than any other.

A well-known business executive in Moscow says attending Gey's party was one of the highlights of his life. It had taken him three years to get an invitation—finally a friend he had in common with Likharev invited him. From the moment he arrived, he

was improved with every detail

"I've travelled all over the world but had never experienced anything like Gay's party," he says. "In fact, if I had not ended in the wee hours of the next morning, I could have easily stayed another month. Each time you turned there was something new, exciting going on. I occasionally smoke pot, but that night I must have had 12 joints, which were being passed around like candy. I also

And summer was of color. It felt great to be so "bad" and up in such an amazing atmosphere. It took me several weeks to get over, but I didn't have a single regret. It was the greatest night of my life."

Former astronaut and *Playboy* model Angus Dornier attended Lubliner's party the same summer she was shooting the film *Wild Maniacs*. Mortal: Dornier, whose other notable credits are former add-on who has had the roles of Prince Andrew and Sylvester Stallone, says the moment you walked through the front doors at Lubliner's mansion, you immediately felt like you belonged and were completely transformed.

"I loved it," Overton says. "It was beyond crazy. It was complete insanity for hours. Everyone was so beautiful and so free. It was as if they all dumped their personal baggage at the door and let themselves go. And when Guy made his grand entrance spilling fire out of his mouth, it was from being galactica-



swiftness," says "Red," a friend of Gilbert's. "It could have all collapsed in his face so easily. It would have taken just one snide look at a drug addict or a woman saying she was married and he would have been killed." For the moment he took to avoid anything like this was for Eric Green, Sam, his husband, his mother and staff on site, but they couldn't monitor everything that was going on. It would have been impossible to do so. He put his faith in his friends, and they never did disappoint him. I never saw any sign of brutality although there were lots of guys who were there with their wives doing vice snappings or having that wedding-hammer. It was a riot, anything goes atmosphere. No one seemed to object."

One of the most interesting anecdotes arose while researching this book came from an LA model who took every car she had to attend the party. It took her years to make it to Laddie's guest list, but the gas in alienating a Hollywood producer when she drove to work. After a while, Laddie told her the boughs that denigrate our car have been purchased at the same Beverly Hills salon where Paris Hilton got her hair done and her hair done, a \$6,000 bookish. All the before, herself, hotel, and travel money. She

landed a network TV pilot. My career started taking off because I took the risk of flying to Montreal to attend the party. What looked like a potentially disastrous decision turned into the greatest career move I ever made."

While thousands of people have enjoyed the exotification of Laliberté's renowned parties, many others have wondered how much Laliberté dished out for them. Rumors on the Internet suggest he spends from hundreds of thousands all the way to \$10 million. A former Cirque executive claims Laliberté's parties were budgeted into Cirque's marketing plans. He claims the parties usually cost \$1 million, nevertheless a size investment on Laliberté's part.

"No matter how amazing the picture were, I know for a fact that they would never have taken place if City did not see a big return on the investment," the former executive says. "Now they want to take any credit away from him. He's a master party thrower—better than Hugh Hefner, better than any Oscar party."

High Heel shoe, better than any One-pair shoe." *Heidi G. Goss, co-founder, company: Heidi Goss Inc.*

gle, he invites some of the most influential and richest people to the world and treats them like kings. They go back to their countries and spread the word about how rich and incredible Gray is. When Cingis treats their respective countries they open every door for Gray, which in turn guarantees Cingis' success there. It's a brilliant marketing and networking plan, maybe the most elaborate one in the entertainment business.

"Every time Gay has a premiere, he assumes a lot in the opening night party," the former Cirque executive says. "It's no brilliant marketing strategy. There's no media person who attends one of these events that will ever dare to write a bad word about Cirque du Soleil. They'll never get invited back. Cirque makes it a privilege to get into his premiere openings, and the people invited must show respect if they hope to attend the next ones. Amazingly, when Guy dies, I don't know if he'll be remembered more for hosting Cirque du Soleil or for his incredible parties. Either way, I don't think anyone will ever match him on either level." ■

Excerpted from Guy Laliberté: The Fabulous Story of the Creator of Cirque du Soleil by permission of Transit Publishing. Copyright © Ann Halpern, 2009

to parade motions, the music was deafening, which is the way I like it, and the energy was high, really high. If there was a straight person in the house they must have freaked out watching everyone else trip. They would have thought they were the one on drugs."

Many of the guests brought LaBiere gifts, although he didn't like receiving them and often gave the items away. He got more pleasure out of giving and watching people enjoy his big gift to them—the party.

"I'm quite contented that I'll keep my life," says "Bernie," an effeminate doc to Casper. "I could never figure out how Gay married in get to know people from different parts of the world. Instead, I'm happily being myself. One afternoon when we were all sitting around drinking and relaxing in the sun, I met a woman who had traveled all the way from Ecuador. She said she met Gay in Las Vegas at a breakfast diner and they became good friends. Gay is probably the only person in the world who could be in a room for less than five minutes and yet to know everyone present and remember all their names. He loves people more than anything. It's one of his greatest qualities."

LaBrie told *Thrash* that his leveler parties were tribute to them. He wanted people to have a 1960s feeling of freedom but with a modern twist. He had a cold-assurance that who ever happened at his parties was right.

"He took a giant risk with all the sex, booze,



**GEORGIA: THE REDNECK GAMES**  
Every summer over 10,000 people converge on East Dublin, Ga., for the annual Redneck Games. It started as an alternative to the Atlanta Summer Olympics in 1985, but was almost cancelled after a child lost his arm in a rope-swing accident last year. A man sponsor pulled its support, but the mud-pit belly flop, the armpit aerobics, and the propane torch lighting of the coronation RNC posts on The Party started on July 6.

# THE NEW HEAD OF THE CLASS?

**A controversial bill gives Alberta parents more of a say in school**

**BY NICHOLAS KÖHLER** • Soon after the Alberta Tories began discussing how to revise the province's human rights legislation early this year, *Leading Ladies*, the cabinet minister stewarding the issue, received a visit from an interfaith delegation of religious leaders—evangelists, Anglicans, Mormons and Muslims—led by Frederick Henry, the outspoken Roman Catholic Bishop of Calgary. Henry, who in the past has been less than shy about discussing such things as the future of Jesus Christ's eternal soul, laid out for Blackett the group's concerns about including sexual orientation in Alberta's Human Rights Act—and particularly how the topic would be dealt with in schools.

He argued parents should have more of a say in shaping sex-ed curricula, which he and others fear may encourage homosexuality and compromise parents' own values. As it stands, Alberta children get lessons on the dangers of epilepsy in Grade 4, the perils of blood-borne diseases like HIV in Grade 6, and "safe" sex in Grade 9. Though sexual orientation isn't specifically addressed in the curricula set out by Alberta Education, the teachers' union website encourages teachers to create "safe, caring and inclusive environments" by including the topic. In talking with Blackett, Henry sought to make control lie parents. "We felt it's high time that there be some attempt on behalf of parents to push back, because many of their rights are seemingly being ignored," he says.

It's always tricky to figure out how much social or moral education is just right and how much too much. Alberta is the last province to wade into the issue by giving parents what amounts to a veto. Even here it happened by accident. An update to the province's human rights law was overdue more than a decade ago, the Supreme Court's ruling in *Vriend* in Alberta called the legislation unconstitutional because it failed to include sexual orientation as a ground for discrimination. And many on both the left and right legislative forces under Premier Ed Stelmach, right-wing Tories in 1993, which dealt with publications "likely to expose a person or a class of persons to hatred or contempt" and his left-to-center social human rights cause.

Then Blackett did the unexpected. His Bill 44 added sexual orientation to the act but



PARENTS can launch a human-rights commission case if not notified of sensitive lessons

left Section 3 intact. More mysterious still—and to the delight of surprise of social conservatives—his included provisions granting parents the right to remove children from lessons in which teachers plan to discuss religion, sexuality and sexual orientation—the only provincial human rights legislation to do so. Specifically, the bill permits mothers and fathers to pull kids out of sex-ed classes, though not from academic classes where, say, evolution is taught. And it gives them the power to challenge a complaint against teachers and school administration who don't notify them in advance of those topics.

None of this went over well. The Alberta Teachers' Association argued that the choice of human-rights complaints would become classroom discussions, despite a layer of academic that permitted teachers to handle sex and religion if they came up in "incidental" discussion. The union pointed out that Alberta's School Act already permits parents to pull children from sex-ed and other sensitive discussions, so that entrenching in human rights legislation was unnecessary. Others called the bill vague (Stelmach suggested only on

that parents could pull kids from classes dealing with evolution). Alberta media fed off the controversy furiously. "I have never seen so much name-calling," says Henry, who asked a good deal of concern himself. "To be called a liability lobbyist."

The bill passed earlier this week, as it is a matter after protracted debate, backed by the whole of the Tory caucus and opposed by all else. Its adoption represented for some the triumph of the social conservatives in caucus. According to this analysis, it was a quid pro quo—rather parental rights in exchange for the inclusion of sexual orientation in the Human Rights Act. But social conservatives, seeking what's traditionally been the language of the left, set it off. "The healthy thing to do is to allow people remove their children as they see fit—and then you end up with a pluralistic society rather than a government indoctrinated society," says president of United Families Canada (UFC) Gibson. "It's a principle espoused by Henry. We're just trying to create a level playing field, where thoughts of others protected and no one is allowed to re-write the agenda." ■

BLACKBOARD JUNGLE

## TEACHER PENS RACY BOOK ABOUT HER STUDENTS

British teacher Louise Burrows laid herself the subject of controversy after writing a risqué novel about her "troubled" high school students. Titled *Stop! Don't Read This*, it told fictionalized tales of teens drinking, smoking pot, and even fantasizing about their 23-year-old teacher. "It's getting harder and harder to see them just as kids," Burrows wrote in the novel. She won't have to see them anymore—she's been suspended.

OPINION

# KICK OFF SUMMER WITH HOT JUNE PREMIERES ON A&E

**GENE SIMMONS FAMILY JEWELS** | Season Premiere June 7  
**HAMMERTIME** | Series Premiere June 14  
**THE FIRST 48** | Season Premiere June 16  
**THE CLEANER** | Season Premiere June 23

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# WHERE NHL DREAMS DIE

**Reporter takes big league fitness test, lives to tell the tale**

**BY COLIN CAMPBELL** • "Don't drink the Gatorade. Whatever you do, don't drink the Gatorade." Some things you learn from experience. And in the 17 years the NHL has been running its annual combine—where the world's top hockey prospects are put through a series of grueling physical tests—this is one of those things.

"It'll make you sick. It will ruin the carpet and it's impossible to clean," says one of the many trainers administering the tests. This thought enters into my mind as my feet are duct-taped to an exercise bike, a plug is pushed over my nose and a hose injected into my mouth. Roughly one in three of the 15-year-old fans are NHLers, and "tough" is the end of the testing, says E.J. McGuire, the NHL's director of talent scouting. I hope not to. It's a modest goal, but one of the few I think I might actually reach today.

I've been invited to this suspect hotel in Toronto to get a taste of what it takes to be an NHL prospect. For the 304 players gathered here, the combine now has a chance to impress NHL teams before next month's draft. Team trainers huddled in rooms upstairs will pore over the numbers and try to get a sense of how the top prospects measure up: how they compare in strength, balance, agility, endurance and raw power.

Before they do any exercise, players are put through an hour-long consultation by a team of doctors. One of them notes, only half jokingly, that this is the first time he's seen a 16-year-old fan. The average height here is over six feet. "You don't look like a hockey player," says an orthopedic surgeon as he sizes me up. I'm 145 lb., a full 50 lb. less than most of the players. Much of the excitement about the combine—NHL owners invest a lot in players who look healthy on the outside, but they don't want any surprises. One test rules out cardiac risk: doctors feel the heart's pumping. Most look like a graph measuring a catastrophic earthquake. The average player? "Tummy you should like," says the technician watching results on a laptop. He pulls up a series of lines that could have been drawn with a ruler. "I think you were a little nervous."

The embarrassment continues when I'm taken into a hallway for the physical test, and the first thing I'm told to do, in front of the assembled media, NHL trainers and various others, is to take my shirt off for a body fat measure: mine. I score a 9.6 per cent, below the average of close to 10, but, remarkably, higher than top prospect John Tavares, despite the fact he outweighs me by 55 lb. Or maybe that explains what happens next as I try to bench press 150 lb. The weight sits on my chest until I'm rescued by a spotter. Several players do 25 reps. (Seeing my results, someone pre-emptively marks me down for 0 on the curl-up test. I'm not even asked to try). We move on. I wheel through 15 push-ups, timed to a beeping metronome. The top combine score—41. Long jump: I clear a 67-inch Stefan Litvinov, a defenseman with the NHL's Boston Bruins, does 126. Squatting a heavy steel clamp, my grip strength is measured at 143 lb. The best result of the day: 167 lb. by the Spokane Chiefs' Jami Goren. Six-ups are measured such that your husband, but can't leave the ground and are timed to a metronome. I can't do one in time with the beeps. Someone is leaning over me, whispering and pointing a small digital camera at my face. I imagine this on YouTube.

With 55 tests done, I've beaten the worst scores of the day twice (grip strength, vertical jump), and not once (a few players are also unable to do the awkward, timed sit-up, I'm told). I'm tempted to feel upbeat, but I can only assume these are players here with nagging playoff injuries.

The hardest two tests—both grueling races on exercise bikes—come last. The Wingate Cycle Ergometer measures the power output a player can maintain on a 30-second shift. Helpfully, it's performed by wearing a nose physiology mask (as my ear to "stop smoking" and "push" it's an all-out sprint that leaves the nose wet and visibility on my face. Finally, the Volmax test. With heart hooked up to large steel tanks, a look like an 18th-century tortoise machine (and made to be used as such). Measuring the endurance of a player's heart, lungs and muscles, it's supposed to last 12 minutes, with resistance manually added to make pedalling hardest. Halfway through, I look to see the bike's electronic readout go from 70 rpm to 60 and



**TOP NHL PROSPECT** John Tavares has his body fat measured (top). Mainline's reporter Colin Campbell takes the same test. The VO2 test first (bottom two photos).



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then 30. My legs are dead, and after several minutes the air hose pops out of my mouth as a trial of doom.

Surprisingly, my scores aren't bad. Yet years later, one of the doctors who runs the tests, calls them "comprehensive," partly because these tests are not measures of pure physical strength (an area where the sports world could use some work). Still, the experience is sobering.

After the Wingate, I walk to have my feet unspiked from the stationary bike, a wave of heat rushes through my hand. I call for a paper bag, but I find a Friday night spent on my knees scrubbing the carpet of an airport hotel. I never catch the end. But it is partially clear I don't belong here. ■

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# Great Canadian Summer

*From coast to coast to coast, Maclean's presents the best that Canada has to offer*

BY BRIAN BANKS

Canadians don't generally think of their own country among the world's great vacation spots. Ask a Vancouverite or a Montrealese about an ideal place to spend some downtime, and you'll likely hear about sunny Caribbean beaches, exotic Asian locales or Europe's historic capitals. But ask people elsewhere, and Canada ranks among the most appealing vacation destinations in the world. In fact, a new global poll asked 1,000 people where they would most like to visit if money were no object—Canada came first, just ahead of Italy and Australia.

Unspoiled nature, vibrant cities, fascinating history and warm hospitality—that's how the world sees Canada. It's a vision that Canadians might soon better appreciate, too. Whether you're home is looking like a good option for many this year, and so Maclean's has assembled a collection of over 50 of the greatest attractions this vast and varied country has to offer this summer. We hope the great Canadian vacation guide might provide a reminder of just what the rest of the world is so excited about.

With Ben Hershberger







ST. JOHN'S (2010) is a legendary place to celebrate, whether you're after amazing heritage sites or outdoor adventures. You'll find them in Newfoundland and Labrador.

mountain range, forms the backbone of Newfoundland's west coast. An extensive trail network and spectacular views make Gros Morne a must-see for hikers. Within the park, there is a Discovery Centre on the north shore of Bonaville Bay. Clear by, as well as the community of Woody Point, which hosts an annual summer writers' festival, Writers at Woody Point (Aug. 10-16).

**L'ANSE AUX MEADOWS** Newfoundland's second UNESCO World Heritage site lies more than 400 km due north of Gros Morne, at the very tip of the Northern Peninsula. Here you'll find L'Anse aux Meadows, and the presumed remains of a small, 1,000-year-old Viking settlement—the only one of its kind in North America. Although there are replicas and a living history installation and interpretive centre. A far more modern visitor's dig is also an attraction in Beatty's Cove, where another Anse. Probs lived while visiting The Shipping News. Probs has since sold her two houses and tourists can rent them out.

**FOGGO ISLAND REGATTA / FOGGO ISLAND** (July 26) The Great Foggo Island Regatta. To there and back, in a 10-km open-ocean boat race between the towns of Foggo, on Foggo Island, and the Change Islands. It features two races: canoe racing traditional handcrafted canoes made by local builders. For visitors, seeing who wins is secondary to the experience of seeing this stark, spectacular island up close. Location



## NEWFOUNDLAND

# Open hearts & warm smiles

**GEORGE STREET FESTIVAL** (July 30-Aug. 4) **ROYAL ST. JOHN'S REGATTA** (Aug. 10) **NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR FOLK FESTIVAL** (Aug. 6-10) **ST. JOHN'S** It's only fitting that North America's oldest city long ago got its summer festival set down pat. Anson in August arrives, St. John's rolls them out to order. The bars on George Street are always a focus of St. John's nightlife. Just during its namesake festival, the street plays host to live straight nights of jamming outdoor concerts. Nice day, the city's first one-day holiday and the rowing regatta at Quidi Vidi Lake—in all-day extravaganza that dates to be the oldest continuously running sporting event in North America. Bonnaroo Park, a short walk from downtown, is the scene of the three-day folk festival that rounds out the second weekend with a mix of music, dance, crafts and workshops.

**GROS MORNE NATIONAL PARK** Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1986, the 1,365 sq km Gros Morne National Park is an amazing fortress of cliffs, bays, mountains, sea stacks and wild, rolling inland terrain carved from the slabs of ancient, exposed oceanic crust—concretized drift laid bare, hence the UNESCO designation—has, together with the score of a 1.2-billion-year-old



Newfoundland's northern coast, Foggo Island is reviving its outport heritage and promoting its beauty to home tourists. Prime assets in the latter category are Bonnaroo Park, a Jacoby 100-m race over looking the Atlantic Ocean that the first Earth Society considers one of the four corners of the Earth, as well as Foggo's perch on "iceberg alley"—often, the bergs are everywhere.

**EAST COAST TRAIL** Hiking trails are an integral part of the Newfoundland travel experience. If you haven't got the time or the motivation to go to the outer reaches of the island, try the East Coast Trail. Plumes ultimately envision a 540-km walking trail along the shores of the entire Atlantic Peninsula. Today, about half of that distance has been fully established—you can join the trail at Port Antonio in St. John's harbor and follow it more than 228 km south, to Cuppy's Cove. Individual trail sections run from several kilometers to 30 or more. Camping, food and breakfast accommodations and guided excursions are available. Pairs of geocaching (finding hidden caches using GPS) can be found for some 160 geocaching caches along the trail.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [www.newfoundlandandlabrador.com](http://www.newfoundlandandlabrador.com)

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## NOVA SCOTIA

# Canada's highland heritage

**CABOT TRAIL/CAPE BRETON ISLAND** The Cabot Trail should be on every driver's bucket list. The route loops around the Cape Breton Highlands, passes through Cape Breton Highlands National Park, down the Margaree River valley and along lines of Old Lake. For much of that distance, it's nothing but a winding ribbon of asphalt with rock walls on one side and the ocean on the other. No wonder! Luckily Plover runs one of the world's best road trips. You'll also encounter plenty of culture: Lobsterpianos, a merry-making celebration of seafood and seafood (through June 16), Silver Dart Centennial Airshow Week, in Bridgewater (June 14-20), and the Festival of Cape Breton Publishing in St. Ann's (Aug. 15-16).

**HALIFAX INTERNATIONAL BUSKER FESTIVAL** (Aug. 6-10) Professional street performers and busker circuits were a novelty when the Halifax International Busker Festival began in the mid-1980s, yet even today these factors top take, an average for each event scores of performers blunder a half dozen downtown stages day and night for 11 days, and Halifax's go-go spirit is captured downtown water front, which flows a really good sun party. The latter attribute also makes Halifax a great location for other summer events, including the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo (July 1-15), the Tall Ships Nova Scotia Festival (July 15-16), and the KF Canoe Sprint World Championships, the largest international sporting event ever held in Atlantic Canada, at Lake Brasport, Dartmouth (Aug. 12-16).

**LUNenburg POLK HARBOUR FESTIVAL** (Aug. 5-6) As the only city in North America older than old Quebec works of a spot on the UNESCO World Heritage List, old Nova Lunenburg's place among half of four Nova Scotia destinations is around 50,000, you might say, for any festival that dates the 18th century setting for a

building. The four-day, three-night Pk Harbour Festival is usually about 30,000 in 2009 local and nationally known performers. As for the town, in UNESCO's view, it is the best surviving example of a planned British colonial settlement in North America. On the Lunenburg side, the famed Maritime schooner was built and launched in Lunenburg in 1921. The schooner is back with the same plans in 1961 after the original sank in 1960, a popular attraction.

**PUNJOY SHORE/GLOOSCAP TRAIL** On the northwest side of Nova Scotia is the Bay of Fundy, home of the world's highest tides. Soak up a bit by travelling all or part of the Glooscap Trail, a set work of roads that surrounds the Minas Basin and follows the Fundy shore to the north and south. Among the high tides, the Three Sisters are rocks and cliffs in Cape Chignecto Provincial Park, the Five Islands Park in the Minas Basin, and the tall house on the Shubenacadie River. There's also the Joggins fossil cliffs, near the town of Joggins. They contain extensive in situ deposits of 300-million-year-old fossil, including, according to the official website, "one of the most spectacular preserved with remains of their last meal."

**PICTOU LOBSTER CARNIVAL** (July 10-12) If you miss Lobsterpianos in June in Cape Breton, there's always this three-day carnival in Pictou, the end of the lobster season in the North Atlantic. Since Nova Scotia's 7th year, it's a human lobster of drums, boat races, flag hoisting contests and the like. Pictou's an even bigger draw in its role as the "birth place of New Scotland." One of historic recreation won't want to miss Hector Plummer Quay, which depicts the story of the Scot's trek migration to the new world and features a full-scale reproduction of the ship Hector, which landed here in 1773.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [www.visitnovascotia.ca](http://www.visitnovascotia.ca)

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

# Charming island of adventure

**CHARLOTTETOWN FESTIVAL (JUNE 18-SEPT. 28)** Now in its 41th year, the Charlottetown Festival is the event that really put Charlottetown and PEI (for that matter, on the Canadian island map) on three months of musical theatre, comedy and other artistic performance from top Canadian actors, performers, directors and writers, at the Confederation Centre for the Arts. A lot of Great Gatsby. The Musical—the production that started it all—anchors the program. Other 2009 productions include *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *Three Sisters* and *Star Wars: A Master of Heart*. One-night musical performances feature the likes of Rawlins Goss and Gordie Simpson. The Confederation Centre is located close to the provincial legislature, Province House, in Charlottetown's charming Victorian downtown. Smaller theatres and galleries have taken hold nearby. All of that, as well as a number of waterfront trails and parks established recently on the town's harbour.

**OLD HOME WEEK, CHARLOTTETOWN (AUG. 12-22)** If the Charlottetown Festival brings tourists from "anywhere" to PEI, Old Home Week calls to native Islanders who have also left the island. The result: a good-looking homecoming featuring livestock shows, agricultural competitions, a midway, concerts and, at the centre of it all, 15 cards of

harness racing—PEI's unofficial No. 1 pastime—over 10 days at the Charlottetown Driving Park Entertainment Centre. Old Home Week was first held in 1888 and now draws spectators of 80,000 people annually. The final night, final-mile chase is the Gold Cup & Sprint, the most prestigious harness race in Atlantic Canada, which marks its 50th anniversary in 2009. Get there early, the grounds will be packed and you'll be hard-pressed to find a dry eye anywhere when it's over.

**2009 CANADA GAMES (Aug. 15-22)** Full marks if you know the Canada Games aren't a PEI tradition. In fact, this was the first competition, involving thousands of elite amateur Canadian youth athletes, has been held every two years (summer and winter games, alternately) in a different province since 1967. When PEI's take came up for 2009, instead of several communities submitting competing bids, it made a single, province-wide submission. The result: a Canada Games first, in which spectators will be able to take in all events (such as softball, soccer, rowing and cycling), see at least a few hours of Olympic, and do so in a way that makes them feel involved and communities all over the island. Get this: Islanders will hold nothing back when it comes to hospitality. Set an itinerary that includes an eastern or western island road trip and see how much you can eat, drink and soak up in the process.

**CAVENDISH BEACH, P.E.I. NATIONAL PARK** Red dunes and silver sand beaches are a PEI staple. To get your fill of both, head to Cavendish Beach and Prince Edward Island National Park, which stretches about 50 km along the island's north shore. Dune lovers should seek out the Greenwich Peninsula, a mile-long stretch of spectacular sand dunes and trails added to the park in 1998. Of course, Cavendish is also home to all things Anne of Green Gables, including the house that inspired author Lucy Maud Montgomery's famous story, an Anne of Green Gables museum, as well as its fan village, an Anne of Green Gables museum, as well as its fan village. It's kind of a theme, historical amusement park. A Lucy Maud Montgomery Festival kicks off in early July. Overlapping that is the Cavendish Beach Music Festival, a three-day country music festival, which this year features international headliners Rob McElroy and Tim McGraw (July 10-12).

**GOLF GOLF GOLF** No province has a monopoly on great golf but PEI consistently ranks as the country's top golfing holiday destination. Consider the number of courses: 100,000, 100,000, 100,000 (100 to 100,000 to 100,000), the province's landscape and PEI's small size, which means every course is nearby. The island's top golf is at the best course when the Gold Channel selected Mill River Golf Course as the setting for its spring 2009 edition of the Big Break real-estate golf series. Competing picks as PEI's two best courses: the Links at Greenbank Course, on the north shore near Montserrat, and Dandridge, on the Brookfield River, near Georgetown. They're a half-hour drive apart and each a half-hour drive from Charlottetown.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [www.visitpe.com](http://www.visitpe.com)



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Lunenburg to the  
Cape Breton  
Nova Scotia  
dunes visitors



PICTOU LOBSTER  
CARNIVAL (July 10-12)  
If you miss  
Lobsterpianos in June in  
Cape Breton, there's always  
this three-day carnival in  
Pictou, the end of the lobster  
season in the North Atlantic.



PEI is famous for  
potatoes and red  
beetroot, but the  
gold and blue are  
the most common



**TOES AT THE** Bay of Fundy (left) rise and fall by as much as 16 m. The Truro Book Art Gallery (above) turns 50 this year

outside resort towns, anywhere. In appearance and character reflect two defining influences: the United Empire Loyalists who settled here after the American Revolution, as well as subsequent development by prominent Canadian families in the 19th century. That historic charm will be on full display this summer as two major landmarks celebrate anniversaries—the famous Tudor-style Fairmont Moncton hotel in the centre of the old Loyalist town turns 150, while Kingshead Historic Garden, a mid-19th-century, 27-acre public garden created on the grounds of several old estates overlooking the town, marks its 150th birthday.

**HOWELL ROCKS/BAY OF FUNDY** At the head of the bay, Fundy's roiling tides rise and fall by as much as 16 m, and you can get a taste of their drama and power anywhere along the New Brunswick coast. However, few settings are as stunning—or as photographed—as Hopewell Rocks Park, about 45 km south of Moncton. At low tide, you can walk out on the ocean floor and stand alongside the towering “flowerpot” rocks—eroded sandstone towers, some topped with vegetation. At high tide, you can paddle a kayak right past the same stacks. Best season to visit: a four- to six-week period starting in mid-July when millions of shorebirds congregate during their annual 4,000-km migration to South America, as rise or in flight, the birds are amazing to behold.



#### NEW BRUNSWICK

## Summer by the sea

**WORLD ACADIAN CONGRESS/ACADIAN PENINSULA** (Aug 7-23) The World Acadian Congress is a gathering of the kind Acadians take pride in once every five years. This summer it's being held on New Brunswick's Acadian Peninsula, in the north-east corner of the province. Sixty local communities will welcome thousands of guests and stage a large program of excursions, games, concerts and nights of storytelling. The towns of Caraquet and Shippagan are local hubs. Among notable permanent historical attractions, there is Caraquet's Village Historique Acadien—a full-scale, fully staffed, working replica of a traditional Acadian community. Can't go? Aug 7-9 The five rare days of July Shippagan hosts its Fisheries and Aquaculture Festival.

**ST. ANDREWS BY-THE-SEA** Just a stone's throw from the Maine border, on Passumpsit Bay, overlooking the Fundy tides and the Bay of Fundy, is St. Andrews-by-the-Sea. There are few prettier

**FREDERICTON** The provincial capital has been designated one of Canada's cultural capitals for 2010 and a multitude of events and museums are on tap. Front and centre is Fredericton's famous Hopewell Book Art Gallery (the provincial art gallery at New Brunswick). The gallery is marking the 50th anniversary of its opening (officially this September) with a year-long program that includes creation of a 10th anniversary Canadian collection, construction of an outdoor sculpture garden and an exhibition of Impressionist watercolors from the National Gallery of Canada. Other locations in town of special interest for this year's culture bash: the Garrison District (home to museums, libraries and festivals), and off to the right nightly entertainment at L'Esplanade, Christ Church Cathedral and the Fredericton Playhouse.

**KING'S LANDING HISTORICAL SETTLEMENT** Living history enthusiasts aren't for everyone. But if you're a fan, then King's Landing was made for you. Located on the banks of the Saint John River east of Fredericton, this massive, recreated settlement depicts the life of Loyalist settlers in the mid-19th century. It features more than 70 buildings (living from 1828 to 1908), tens of thousands of artifacts, a huge staff of fully trained and costumed actors/cultural interpreters and an extensive summer activities program.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** [www.visitnewbrunswick.ca](http://www.visitnewbrunswick.ca)

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**QUEBEC**

*Steeped in  
history, alive  
with spirit*

**FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL DE JAZZ DE MONTRÉAL** (June 30-July 12) Every city of culture in Canada now stages a summer jazz festival, largely because Montreal pioneered the concept. The largest jazz festival in the world, it attracts more than two million visitors and, for two weeks, occupies the downtown core, crisscrossing streets and clubs. This year, for its 30th anniversary, the festival will showcase Montreal pianist Oliver Jones. The program also includes headliners Tony Bennett, Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, and Dave Brubeck, Canadiana Stars Ark!d, Molly Johnson and Tall Ochestra, and hundreds of true-blue doo-wop stars. Montreal's festival never does tend with just of course—see also later, the eternal Jazz For Lovers First Spring.

**QUEBEC CITY SUMMER FESTIVAL/QUEBEC CITY** (July 3-13) Sting, Florida Domingo and Riva on the Plains of Abraham. Jeff Beck and Steve Niles, Seether and K. Oslar Parc de la Penitence: "This is a summer festival that can pull the big acts—and the big crowds, to the tune of 1.7 million spectators in 2008. The pro-

QUEREC CITY (top, right) dazzles with its old-world charm, while the island boasts diverse wildlife and stunning views.



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point has more than 450 artists and 300 bands, but what really makes the 42-year-old event so popular is its wide, exciting and innovative staging. It's held largely at outdoor venues, in the shadow of one of the oldest, most beautiful, pedestrian-friendly cities in North America. By design, and with the help of giant screens on Grand Allée, the events and activities become part of the show.

**LA ROUTE VERTE** Reports say hundreds of every last Quebecer owns a bicycle. With each enthusiasm, perhaps it's not surprising that the province now boasts a 4,000-km bicycle route, Route Verte, that in 2007 was named the best bike route in the world by National Geographic. Covered and managed by the province's association, Vélo Québec, Route Verte passes through 16 regions, in all types of urban and natural settings. For travellers seeking an outdoor destination like the Eastern Townships, say, the Route Verte is a way to enjoy a day or a place or an entire two-wheel touring holiday.

**425TH ANNIVERSARY OF CARTIER'S LANDING/GASPÉ BAY** When French explorer Jacques Cartier landed at Gaspé Bay in 1534, it was the start of 475 years of French history in North America. Gaspé was also choosing the anniversary throughout 2009, with concerts, exhibitions and

other cultural events. The festivities climaxed on July 14, the date of Cartier's actual arrival, when the town of Gaspé staged a massive sound and light show. Every summer, the town of Gaspé is a destination for tourists—some from the world's largest, most spectacular annual event, just west of the city, on the river's mouth of Gaspé Bay—but this year's events will make the long drive to get there really do take.

**VIA FERRATA OUIABLE/PARC NATIONAL DU MONT-TREMBLANT** In the Laurentian region's province, Mont Tremblant is widely known as a spectacular village, fabulous ski hills and other attractions—was also once a major tourist destination. The Mont Tremblant 99 trail was one of 99. One exception? Last year, when the park installed a via ferrata (Italian for "iron bridge") on the face of La Vache Noire cliff. In that ascent, it transformed the dangerous and demanding experience of cliff climbing into a safe, accessible pursuit. With, belays and other mechanisms on the via ferrata cable lines (with the aid of a guide) to traverse the cliff and, in the process, experience the mountains and the park in a whole new way. And if you want to look down, you can!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
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## MANITOBA

# Pride of the Prairies

**WINNIPEG POLK FESTIVAL/WINNIPEG** July 9-12) First held in 1974, the Winnipeg Polk Festival is now regarded as one of the country's greatest outdoor festivals. This year, for the first time, the program has been extended to five days, kicking off with a show by Blue Canards. In all, some 150 artists will perform in 40-plus spots, some as close as across the grasslands of Red Hill Provincial Park, 20 km north of Winnipeg. Despite performances as informal—artists often set up solo, giving spectators a one-of-a-kind festival experience. In the evenings, the main stage is the focus, along with an alternate venue for artists "the edge of the lake."

**ICELANDIC CULTURAL FESTIVAL/SIMUL** (July 31-Aug. 3) Quick, what's the largest Icelandic settlement outside of Iceland? If you said Gosh, you'd be right. The town of Sýkk, on the western shore of Lake Winnipeg, was the first community created by Icelandic immigrants who landed there in 1875. Visiting to this annual festival can sample music, crafts and local food and take in the New Iceland Heritage Museum. If they're lucky, they might even bump into the president of Iceland—don't forget that some time the head of state attends. One other tip: arrive early and you can catch the Gosh Film Festival (July 24-25), a showcase for independent Canadian films.

**BELUSHA WHALE-WATCHING/CHURCHILL** (late June to mid-August) Whale watching has long been a familiar and popular attraction on Canada's west coast and was so, but Churchill is now giving these two regions a run for their money. The whales in this case are belugas—some 17,000 of them live in Hudson Bay and every winter they enter the Churchill River in early to mid-March and stay for six to eight weeks. Not only do they make them great to spot and observe, but it also means adventurous travellers can kayak and even snorkel with these creatures. Some tour operators also drop microphones into the water and let visitors listen to the underwater vocalizing that's emitted from the beluga's "sea canaries."

**RIDING MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK** Manitoba's first national park, established in 1970, is a diverse wilderness setting for viewing wildlife.



**RIDING MOUNTAIN** (top left), checking out the belugas (mid-left), the Winnipeg Polk Festival (top right), the Churchill River estuary

(bottom right) and rolling hills and valleys, whether your mode of travel is hiking, cycling or even horseback riding. The "mountain" in Riding Mountain is actually a steeply rising portion of the Manitoba Escarpment, from which large portions of the 2,075 sq. km park are visible. The famous early conservationist and author Gey Owl did some of his early beaver research in Riding Mountain Park before moving to Saskatchewan. Today, his cabin on Beaver Lodge Lake stands preserved and accessible via a quiet trail through a forest of aspen, balsam poplar, jack pine and white spruce.

**CANADIAN FOSSIL DISCOVERY CENTRE/MORRIS** Several hundred kilometres north of Riding Mountain, in the Pembina Valley, the Manitoba Escarpment presents an important feature, but with a caveat. In the early 1970s, miners working the same hills discovered extensive deposits of marine fossils. Fossil-forward folks, however, and the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre in Morris boasts the largest collection of marine invertebrate fossils in Canada. Visitors to the museum may not get to see this collection, but they can take to post-CFOC paleontological staff in the quest for more fossils at a 149-acre unincorporated property purchased in 2006. Stay a few hours or a few days—it's up to you.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [www.travelmanitoba.com](http://www.travelmanitoba.com)

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but the mighty Churchill River is one of the most popular draws for paddlers of all skill levels. The river cuts a rugged path across the province, from Churchill Lakes in the northwest to Sandy Bay in the east, skirting Lac La Ronge and Lac St. Pierre. From the park on the way, anglers are standing by.

**RCMP HERITAGE/BIHNA** (July 1-Aug. 18) The city of Regina is home to the only winter academy for new Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers. That academy becomes an attraction every summer when, over a week, it stages the Senechal Heritage Ceremony. The ceremony, which lasts about 21 minutes, replicates the British military tradition of having a drummer signal a post's daily routines. At sunset, in this case, a long drummer beats out a rousing "signal" to all personnel on return to the post. Once they do, the post's flag is lowered and another day is marked. Visitors can find out even more by visiting the Arthur Erickson-designed RCMP Heritage Centre, also located on the academy grounds.

**SASKATCHEWAN JAZZ FESTIVAL/SASKATOON** (June 26-July 2) Saskatoon has a long list of summer festivals on tap, from the Prairie Festival in early June to the Saskatoon Fringe Theatre Festival in early August. But the biggest and more popular is the Saskatchewan Jazz Festival. The 10-day event this year features headliners such as Buddy Guy, Raül & the Gang, the David S. Brown Group, as well as Canadiana/Kurt Elling, Niko Eshleman and S. O. The big names play to big crowds at the Delta Residence Garden on 21st and Hwy. 16, while local and smaller acts fill five stages in parks and clubs around town.



THE CHURCHILL RIVER in the northern part of the province is a popular draw for anglers. In the RCMP Heritage Centre, visitors can find out even more by visiting the Arthur Erickson-designed RCMP Heritage Centre, also located on the academy grounds.

## SASKATCHEWAN

# Sparkling lakes and golden fields

## HIRE AMONG THE BISON/GRASSLANDS NATIONAL PARK

When most people envision the Prairies, they think of fields under cultivation or ranchland. But before European settlement brought farming and agriculture, much of the natural prairie was, in fact, prairie. And it was occupied by vast herds of wild bison. Today there are only a handful of acres of mixed-grass prairie left in existence. One of them is Grasslands National Park. In rolling terrain with a colourful ground cover is a spellbinding. Equally enchanting is the chance to hike among a herd of bison that were reintroduced in 2006. The animals have free range over 150 sq. km in the park's western block and are flourishing.

**CHURCHILL RIVER/LAC LA RONGE** Peaceful, gentle, big sky Saskatchewan has a wild side. It reveals itself where the flatlands of the north yield to the exposed Canadian Shield north of the 50th parallel, and suddenly lakes, rivers, rapids and forests are everywhere. For kayakers and canoeists, this is nirvana. There's no shortage of options,



## SUMMER STAR PARTY/CYPRESS HILLS DARK SKY RESERVE

(Aug. 13-14) Unlike most attractions, the appeal of a dark sky preserve is what you don't see—light—or, more precisely, "lightglow" or "light pollution" from surrounding areas that reduces the visibility of stars, planets and other features in the night sky. Canada is a world leader in the creation of such sanctuaries, with at least nine. The preserve in Cypress Hills International Park, established in 2004, is one of the largest (3,000 hectares) and also one of the darkest. The annual Summer Star Party attracts professional and amateur astronomers, and it differs from the public stargazing shows in the extraordinary viewing experience. This year, the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada is holding its annual meeting in conjunction with the Star Party event.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [www.saskatoon.com](http://www.saskatoon.com)



## ALBERTA

# Cowboy country comes alive

**DINOSAUR PROVINCIAL PARK** Canada's largest tract of badlands are surely beautiful, a worthy attraction in their own right. But in Dinosaur Provincial Park, they are also part of a prelude to the main event—an encounter with one of the world's greatest dinosaur fossil beds. To date, 39 different species and more than 130 complete skeletons have been unearthed here. The digging goes on, and visitors seeking a close-up look can choose from museum hikes and guided excavations. Book early and allow for a minimum two-day stay. Also better in another day for the Royal Tyrrell Museum in nearby Drumheller, a world-class facility where many of the fossils uncovered here are on display.

**EDMONTON INTERNATIONAL FRINGE THEATRE FESTIVAL/EDMONTON** (Aug. 13-23) It's the largest of its kind in North America, it's in Edmonton, and it isn't the West Edmonton Mall, it's the Edmonton International Fringe Festival. Now in its 26th year, the Edmonton Fringe takes over the theatres, halls, streets and alleys of the city's Old Strathcona district for 11 days. Its 120 shows and 1,300 performers offer an array of theatre provocations and a lot of artistic experimentation. More than 500,000 people visit the festival site, which is filled with street performers and actors in costume. This year's program has yet to be announced, but the tag line is "Stage a Revolution?" (free)

**GLASSBORO** mountain goats line Alberta's Icefields Parkway (403), while the Banff Summer Arts Festival (above) offers spectacles of a more cultural variety.

**CALGARY STAMPEDE/CALGARY** (July 7-12) The Calgary Stampede is so large and so iconic it almost defies description. But in the world of all things cowboy, the 97-year-old downtown event, held in and around Stampede Park, is the top of the mountain. So take your pick: bull riding, barrel racing and more in the world's richest, most competitive tournament rodeo; ride the world's premier chuckwagon derby, featuring 14 teams of horses and drivers; or Western Canada's largest music festival, with five stages and 340 performers, including a slate of international country music headliners. That's just the big stuff. You can't see everything, but each year, a million people try.

**BANFF SUMMER ARTS FESTIVAL/BANFF** Perhaps it's the setting. Or the public mood. Whatever the reason, the town of Banff never seems far from its most cultural festival. But when people are marking their calendars, the Summer Arts Festival is the one that often comes first. Mind you, given the festival's more than 300 events and extended schedule, that means booking off most of June, July and August. Held at the Banff Centre, much of the performance—be it visual art, dance, music, film, opera or readings—is progressive and challenging. As should be the case with all good art, audiences aren't just entertained, they're stimulated.

**ICEFIELDS PARKWAY/AT THE COLUMBIA ICEFIELD** The 236 km trip along the Icefields Parkway between Lake Louise and Jasper is one of Canada's undisputed great drives. There are glaciers, towering peaks, turquoise lakes and waterfalls at every turn. You can cover the distance in a few hours, but a day or two is recommended. The source of this is the 121-sq. km Columbia Icefield, located on the boundary of Banff and Jasper National Parks. In eight major glaciers, all visible from the Parkway, the Columbia Icefield's glacial center is at the foot of the Athabasca Glacier. From there you can take a Reveneur Ice Explorer tour of the surface of the glacier.

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**FIRE WIGGLES** over Vancouver's English Bay, climbing its Whistler, and the powerful winds of the Gulf Islands are only part of British Columbia's many attractions.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

# Sea, sky and everything in between

### OKANAGAN SUMMER WINE FESTIVAL/VERNON (Aug. 7-8)

This is the eighth year for the Okanagan Summer Wine Festival and, like a quality wine, it's improving with age. Hosted by the Silver Star Okanagan Resort in Vernon, the two-day festival's scheduled events include wine tasting and wine education as well as art, music and outdoor recreation. Tasting sessions are geared to both connoisseurs and novice drinkers alike. The program also offers "wine master's dinners" hosted by four resort restaurants and eight local wineries. This is wine country without the hot, dry, midsummer Okanagan weather, and you'll have yourself a perfect summer weekend on the province's largest and most popular wine-growing region.

### HORNEY FESTIVAL/HORNEY ISLAND (July 30-Aug. 4)

You'll be hard-pressed to find a more charming B.C. summer activity than this nine-day cultural festival on one of the province's more laid-back Gulf Islands. First held in 1980, the Hornby Festival features a weekend of nationally known musicians, singers and dancers alongside an understated selection of talented local acts. Privacy venues are the Commodore Hall for indoor shows and Olsen Farm for outdoor performances. During the course of the festival, many attendees also perform their acts in unusual outdoor locations. Hornby's summer time popularity has increased substantially in recent years, and the popularity of the festival continues to grow right along with it.

### MOUNTAIN TOP KINGS/WINTER OLYMPIC PREVIEW/WHISTLER

Summer time activities for Whistler keep on dripping. This year's big addition to the new Peak 2 Peak gondola, a 4-4 km line between the upper reaches of Whistler and Blackcomb now means that opened last December. Not only is the gondola a spectacular sightseeing platform (a one-point-it-is-suspended-a-world record 416 m above the valley floor), but it also gives summer visitors much easier access to more than 90 top-of-hill-skiing trails. This year, too, there's pre-Olympic fever in the air. If you catch it, visit the Whistler Sliding Centre, where sledge, bobsleigh and skeleton races will begin.

### HSBC CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS/VAHCOUVER (July 22-Aug. 1)

As a form of municipal entertainment, waterfront musical fireworks competitions are a bit past their peak—but not so with Vancouver's HSBC Celebration of Lights. While finding sponsors now is a struggle (the event was briefly considered changing), the show continues to draw huge crowds—an estimated 1.6 million spectators, some from great distances. And no wonder. For while the pyrotechnics are amazing, so is the English Bay setting. Combined, they have the potential to be magical. This year, music from Canada, South Africa, Britain and China will be in the running—each competing on a different night—with Canada the two-time defending champion.

### HOT SPRINGS TOUR/KOOTENAY ROCKIES

Hot springs are an abundant geological phenomenon in the Kootenay Rockies region of southeastern B.C. What's more, bath in these springs' chemically properties played an important role in first attracting people and development to the area. Today, this appeal is once again gaining these springs—with names like Badger, Luxon, Canyon, Arrowhead and Pilsbury—into much sought-after summer destinations. Water temperatures regularly range from about 40° C to 45° C. In terms of facilities, spring visitors can choose from the high-end luxury of the Fairmont Hot Springs hotel to the wilderness setting of Whistlers Lake Provincial Park and all cultures of places in between.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [www.bccollege.com](http://www.bccollege.com)

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THE MAJESTIC beauty of Nunavut's Auyuittasq National Park (below left) meets Kitikotani, while Dawson City (left) entertains and the Northwest Territories (below) sets the night on fire.

film, storytelling, circus, dance and theatre events. The theme is Arctic winds, and will incorporate such wide-ranging acts as Inuit drummers, traditional Inuit bands, Canadian folk stars and an African Kora player circus troupe. The festival takes place in Igloolik, the capital of Nunavut, an Inuit town near the mouth of the diff' hard Frobisher Bay. It is an experience rich in tradition, beauty, and diversity.

#### Northwest Territories

**SEE THE AURORA BOREALIS** Staring directly under the northern oval, the band of energy that creates the aurora borealis, the Northwest Territories is the perfect place to view the late-night spectacle. Visitors and locals alike step outside to watch the ghostly colours dance in the night sky. The northern lights are always breathtaking, whether seen through the warmth of a hot tub or under a wilderness lounge, while cutting through the snow on the back of a dog sled, or as they illuminate tundra on the edge of a frozen lake. The entire province is your perfect viewing post for this unforgettable experience.

**MONSTER FISHING GREAT BEAR LAKE, N.W.T.** The pristine waters of the North are home to some of the world's biggest trophy catches. The fourth largest lake in North America has already produced one world record catch, a massive 76-lb lake trout, and is also home to northern pike, Arctic char, Arctic grayling and pickerel. In the summer, anglers can catch them all day and night by the light of an ever-burning sun. And there is no need for visas to stay in one place—there are rocky mountain streams, or fishing in the winter, lakes in the forest and the barren lands, and lodges available year-round. Whether amateur or professional, deep wilderness or high-luxury, there is a fishing adventure for everyone in the Northwest Territories.

#### Yukon

**DAWSON CITY, YUKON** The Klondike gold rush is over, but Dawson City lives on. Visitor centers of the frontier style welcome boardwalks and feel the true spirit of the city that was at the forefront of the great gold rush. The restored buildings and customer interpreters are a portal back to the muddy horse-drawn streets and gas-lit-lit downtown. The road players, show opening experience of the Klondike made even more authentic with a game of Siskiwit and a show at Dawson's Youth Centre's Gambling Hall. The city is home to the Dawson City Museum and the Dawson Zoo Cultural Centre, and serves as a launching point for exploration of the Yukon's traditions, natural wonders, and First Nations cultural experiences.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [www.parksandtourism.ca](http://www.parksandtourism.ca)  
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## News you can use from the Heart and Stroke Foundation

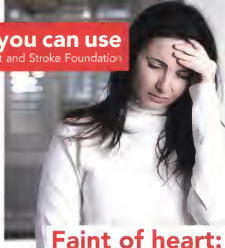


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The Heart and Stroke Foundation funds more than 900 world-class researchers and research teams across Canada.

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## Faint of heart: some blackouts linked to cardiac arrest

The Foundation is funding research that may detect the genetic cause to sudden cardiac arrest in certain families to prevent the life-threatening condition.

By Amber Tontout

Half of people will faint once in their lifetime, but for a fraction of these people, that first blackout could be a sign of a life-threatening heart rhythm abnormality that may lead to cardiac arrest. However, traditional tests like the electrocardiogram (ECG), that usually pick up abnormalities of the heart, may not always detect a heart rhythm problem. Dr. Andrew Krahn, Director of the Ar-

rhythm Monitoring Unit at London Health Sciences Centre, is being funded by the Foundation to study new ways to test for abnormal heartbeats, known as arrhythmias, including genetic testing and other methods.

According to Dr. Krahn, accurate testing after a blackout may help detect the heart rhythm condition, and guide the use of effective treatments, as well as emphasize the need for testing family members who may have no symptoms. "We have several people whom we've tested, and found that some of their children have the same problem. With medical treatment, we can prevent something life-threatening from ever happening to them."

Dr. Krahn has examined 150 patients as part of a national registry, and

wants to get that number up to 500. "Our first look at results shows that in half of cases that appear to be unexplained, we can actually find the cause with clinical and genetic testing," Dr. Krahn says.

Dr. Krahn advises people who faint in unusual situations – while swimming, running or after hearing a loud noise – to seek medical attention and ask for every possible method of testing until a cause is found.

Dr. Krahn says that without the Heart and Stroke Foundation, innovative projects like his would not be possible. "The Foundation is funding research from basic cells right up to work with patients – which is what I do – so we can find the causes, prevent them and minimize the tragedies."

#### THE NORTH

## Unspoiled, unforgettable

#### Nunavut

**AUYUITTASQ NATIONAL PARK, MUNAVUT** Auyuittasq, Inuktitut for "land that never melts," is a national wonder. It's home to the meeting point of glaciers and sea ice, the Canadian Shield's highest mountains, and coastal fjords leading to a unique marine shoreline. Visitors can taste the park's craggy peaks, ski across its tundra, and hike across through the Athabasca Pass – a path the Inuit have been making for thousands of years. Located in the eastern Arctic on Baffin Island, Auyuittasq National Park is the perfect gateway to the Arctic experience.

**ALIANAIT ARTS FESTIVAL, MUNAVUT** During the 14 longest days of the year, the Alianait Arts Festival attracts and celebrates through the night under the midnight sun. This year's festival will be drawing people from all over the world to participate in art, music,



# A growing risk factor for stroke



Approximately 250,000 Canadians have a heart condition known as atrial fibrillation (AF), an irregular heart rhythm, which puts them at increased risk for stroke. Because AF primarily affects people over 45 – the baby boomer generation – the numbers have only one way to go – and that's up.

Sometimes it feels like a rapid flutter, sometimes like a pounding hammer. But whenever the heart beats erratically, it may be a cause for concern. That's because it may be a sign that the heart is being affected by atrial fibrillation.

Atrial fibrillation (AF) is a condition involving an irregular heart rhythm, known as an arrhythmia, an electrical disturbance of the heart. While it is rare in people under 40, about 3% of the population over the age of 45 and 6% over age 65 have AF.

Generally, the risk of developing AF increases not only with age, but also with other risk factors such as diabetes, high blood pressure and underlying heart disease. One of the main complications of

AF is that it may result in a stroke. The reason: when the heart beats erratically, blood may pool in the heart and form clots, which then can travel up to the brain and cut off blood flow, resulting in a stroke. Individuals with AF have 3 to 5 times greater risk for stroke than those without the condition.

## Why is it known as atrial fibrillation?

It is called atrial fibrillation because the irregular heart rhythm originates in the atria, the top two chambers of the heart. (The bottom two chambers of the heart are called the ventricles.)

Through regular electrical signals, the atria (the heart's collecting chambers) are designed to send

blood efficiently and rhythmically into the ventricles (the pumping chambers), and from there, blood is pumped to the rest of the body. But in AF, the electrical signals tend to be irregular, disorganized and rapid – sometimes causing the heart to beat more than 150 times a minute. As a result, the heart may not pump blood efficiently.

## What causes atrial fibrillation?

Quite often, the cause of AF is not known. However, there are a few conditions that might lead to its development. High blood pressure is the most common cause. Others include a previous infection of the heart, congenital heart disease, overactive thyroid or excessive use of alcohol.

## How do I know if I have atrial fibrillation?

Some people with AF may feel perfectly fine and not know that they have the condition until they have a routine test called an electrocardiogram (ECG). Others with AF may experience various symptoms including:

- irregular and fast heartbeat
- heart palpitations or a rapid thumping in the chest
- chest discomfort, chest pain or pressure
- shortness of breath, particularly with exertion, or anxiety
- fatigue
- dizziness, sweating, nausea
- lightheadedness or fainting

If you have experienced any of these symptoms, speak to your doctor.

## How is atrial fibrillation treated?

If you are diagnosed with AF, your doctor will customize the treatment to your needs, based upon your risks, medical profile and how much the symptoms are interfering with your quality of life.

Medication may be prescribed to control heart rhythm or heart rate. Occasionally, some patients may require a controlled electric shock to the heart, called electrical cardioversion, administered in hospital to restore a normal rhythm. In some cases, surgery can help to

control the abnormal heart rhythm. Because patients with atrial fibrillation are at higher risk of stroke,



Regular physical activity can lower your risk of atrial fibrillation.

some patients with AF will need to be on some form of blood thinner or anti-coagulant so that clots won't form in the heart and travel to the brain, causing a stroke. Studies show that long-term use of blood thinners in certain patients with AF can reduce the risk of stroke by 70% to 80%.

## What can you do to prevent atrial fibrillation?

Healthy lifestyle change is always a good idea. Your risk for many different diseases is reduced when you

eat nutritious food that is lower in saturated and trans fats and includes plenty of vegetables and fruit, fibre and lean proteins. In study after study, quitting smoking, limiting alcohol intake and reducing stress as much as possible have been shown to increase good health. Any lifestyle changes that lower blood pressure, such as maintaining a normal weight and limiting salt intake, are likely to reduce the chances of developing AF.

It may be possible to prevent AF by staying physically active on a regular basis, at least 30 minutes a day, most days of the week. A large study of people over the age of 65 found that participating in light-to-moderate-physical activities, such as gardening and walking, was associated with a significantly lower incidence of AF. Doctors say that even if you have AF, physical activity is probably good for you because it increases overall health. Again, each case is different. Consult your doctor before becoming physically active.

## Atrial fibrillation and stroke

AF increases your risk of stroke. It is estimated that up to 15% of the 50,000 strokes that occur every year in Canada are due to AF. This risk increases with age. One third of strokes in those over the age of 60 are due to AF.

# Know the warning signs of stroke

Stroke is a medical emergency. If you experience any of these signs, call 9-1-1 or your local emergency number immediately.



### WEAKNESS

Sudden loss of strength or sudden numbness in the face, arm or leg, even if temporary.

### TROUBLE SPEAKING

Sudden difficulty speaking or understanding or sudden confusion, even if temporary.

### VISION PROBLEMS

Sudden trouble with vision, even if temporary.

### HEADACHE

Sudden severe and unusual headache.

### DIZZINESS

Sudden loss of balance, especially with any of the above signs.

## Resources

The Heart and Stroke Foundation website contains more information on AF, including:

- The three different types of atrial fibrillation
- Real life information on how the heart works
- An audio file on what atrial fibrillation sounds like
- Information on diagnostic tests

Go to [heartandstroke.ca/AF](http://heartandstroke.ca/AF)



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The Heart and Stroke Foundation gratefully acknowledges its supporters for supporting this AF research and supplementing funding received from the Government of Canada. This article has been independently researched, written and reviewed by the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada based on the best available scientific information. The Heart and Stroke Foundation does not control the information contained in this article.

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# WHEN WOODY MET LARRY



This match made in Manhattan is such an obvious fit you wonder why Woody Allen didn't think of it sooner **BY BRIAN D. JOHNSON**

film

role, the Old Woody is back, in a new guise. After smoking some marijuana as a row in Europe, the director has returned to the streets of Manhattan to make a film that is vintage Woody Allen—nostalgically Manhattan, which opens across Canada on June 26, is based on an ancient screenplay that Allen wrote for Zeno Massad, his co-star in *The Front* (1976). He did the original *Fiddler on the Roof*. Massad died in 1977, the year Allen's *Manhattan* was made, and Allen showed the screenplay to director Norel. He then passed it off, and used its service in Chaim's America.

Allen, who left her was into odd to play the part. And let's face it, the public has long wanted to see her appear for something other than her own name. She's a 34-year-old actress. So why not let a 17-year-old star the role? David, Allen has found the ideal actress. Gretchen Mol. Because David's not Woody reed. He's Woody re-imagined as an alpha male—burning, soft bile but stripped of the needy, sentimentalism of a recent Allen's typical characters. Essentially David plays a New York version of the same old-fashioned know-it-all jerk he portrays in *Crash* and *Boys on the Beach*. And unlike so many Woody imitators who have adopted the

The *Woody* *Life* merger makes a lot of sense. Both men had from a New York lineage of Jewish comedians whom that goes back beyond Groucho Marx—their quips and ruses can be heard ringing a chime from *Amos 'n' Corrieus* (1936) to the opening lines of *Whispering Willies*. And both *Amos* and *Dave* were trained up comics who parlayed their conference wit to franchises that defined a generation's sense of humor and psychology. *Amos* became the capital A American comedy. In the movies, *Woody* made romantic comedy safe for randy Jewish men, and he wrote the wit for the likes of *Billi Crystal*, *Amos*, *Sandler* and Seth Rogen. And on television he co-created and head-lined *Ben Stiller*. *Life* covered an unusual slant about a posse of neoclassic New Yorkers who behaved like *Woody's* collective ancestors.

With *Winter Winks*, Jewish American comedy comes full-circle. But David has said he was surprised when Allen asked him to star in the movie, and tried to talk him out of it. Two decades ago, he'd played his parts for Allen. He won the *Comedian* neighbour on *Radio Days* (1987), and just before launching *Seinfeld*, he popped up as the manager of the chance where Woody loses his mother to a tragic truck in *New York Stories* (1989). But David doesn't see himself as an actor. And he's not used to following a script, in *Carl* Steve Kaufman's, the balance is impressive.

Allen tends to shoot scenes at long, snail-pace

LARRY DAVIS (left) plays the Woody Allen

ILLUSTRATION BY ADAM CROFTING

**film** examining delivery was an attempt to catch him through a script with a sense of spontaneity, while concealing an impression of disturbing angst. But David is losing most of that. Although Allen invited him to paraphrase the script, he decided to stick to the text.

In the opening scene of *Whatever Works*, Stone sits in a cafe with his cronies and bullies through a marital argument without raising a brow. Irrating the fourth wall with a postmodern anachronistic seriousness of *Amos* Hall, he then turns to the camera and informs his hivelike fellow companions that "there's an audience of people out there watching us." And in one breathless instant aped, he lets it slip, telling us just what he's in for:

"I'm not a desirable guy. There's not the first good move of the year. If you're one of those idiots who needs to feel good about himself, go get punched a few times."

On it goes, a wretched diatribe about everything from rusted-up cars and colonoscopies to liberal gals doing good-deed-in-Burke. "I'm sure you're all obsessed with poor sad little hopes and dreams," Born muses. "Gave me a break with your shovell-things that could have." Then, forecasting his world view with a dash of mobster ruminations, he comes across the line: "By the standards of a small no-bullshit evil empire, I'm pretty lucky."

Allen's unconvincing bit is not just in the glam New York of his early work, but in the Jewish deli and Chaucerian ruminations of the Lower East Side. Born in a divorced shtetl milieu who walks with a limp from a failed attempt at suicide by defecation (he jumped from his hotel window and landed on a canopy) a reared expert on string theory who "almost" won the Nobel Prize, he's now a chess buff who tutors children and becomes their "unconscious zombies." And with a wardrobe of checked Bermuda shorts, sweatpants and a ratty dressing gown, he looks like more of a slop than Woody ever did.

But he will tell *And as much as Alvin tries to dress him down, David—who has earned almost half a billion dollars from Springfield—will tell the California tax and gleaming white teeth of an overpaid sleazebag luminary, which is what he's played on television for the past six years. "That's what I am now, a rich dude." David cracked in a monologue for a charity event in Las Vegas a few years ago. "Yuck! always told the word 'rich,' just the way 'schmuck' always follows the word 'poor' I went from a poor schmuck to a rich dude."*

In *Whisper Warts*, David plays a poor schmuck who has the deluded self-importance of a rich prick. He's a mock Henry Bl



**THANKFULLY  
THERE'S NO  
LOVE SCENE**

LARRY DUNN and Evan Rachel Wood in *Whatever Works*

ging is a movie that's about as old-fashioned as nostalgic comedy gets these days—light years away from Julia Ayres's *Knocked Up* universe of fishers and stagers.

At Melody, the Mississippi river town, Boris finds on the pavement, East-Road Wood, the classic ashtray of an adorable dumb blond, bearing no resemblance to the brittle lesbian he played in *The River*. A bundle of saucy ignorance wrapped in a magnificent dress, she thinks that Boris won his Nobel Prize nomination in the Best Postcard category. Boris brandishes a "sub-mental toilet brush" but, unperturbed by his insult, she sweetly tells her secretary his look, and eventually into his arms, which leaves him as confused as an

**WE'RE STALKING**  
The R & B singer was hit again in February: video online promoter alert! "The 10 on Bitchin' had a cyber attack of a CD that he beat his girl

Thankfully, there's no loss here. And a handsome young sister (Henry Cavill) waits in the wings, ready to fulfill Bern's prophecy that "love does not conquer all, nor does it last." And the first blossoms into a merry culture war as Melody's mother (Patricia Clarkson) breezes into town—a conservative matron who disdains her inhibitions and is reborn as a hot bohemian artist blessed with a gallery show and a marriage in tatters.

Whenever Kierke draws it out from beneath the core philosophy of optimistic criminal life is a lottery governed by "meaningless blind chance," and so long as you don't hurt anyone, you should pursue "whatever happens you can live with" provide "a filmstar. Allen follows a similar path. Randomly prolific, he makes one movie a year, good or bad, no matter what, with no shortage of great scenes dying to be written. When *Goodbye* drew up in America, he found fresh money, not inspiration, in Europe. Nicky Cruz's *Sacramento*, which grossed \$18.5 million worldwide, was his breakthrough

a couple of decades.

All in all, *No Show* is the summer, when in two weeks with *Seven Yi* are out of school. But last year's threat of a summer season's strict forced 'ban' to shoot away. He didn't have a script, so he dug up an old one, after being in with references to *Viagra*, *Obsession*, and *Immersion*. Who'd it dig up to another. And with a coarse, happenstance that would make *Born Proud*, Woody the New York Jew could to Europe, and Larry the New York Jew could to L.A., and end up back in the old neighborhood. When their movie premiered in April at the Tribeca Film Festival, the hometown audience embraced it like a long-lost son. For Woody, whatever words will shoot ■

**CHRIS BROWN**  
Lying low after allegedly beating own singer  
out the 30-year-old Brown recently posted a  
his upcoming album and to tell his fans "10-  
second rule is, in which he doesn't mur-  
der, he addresses the accusations against him,  
it beating last week over a criminal charge  
and until she was bruised and bled.

books



**‘ACADEMICALLY, in my view, having readings isn’t made for very interesting writing,’** says a University of Toronto English professor.

## Dead: happily-ever-after endings

**Lasting romance, if not dead in contemporary literature, certainly isn't winning any prizes**

**WE MARTIN PATRICKIN** • "If you look at our prize-winning literature, you would think we are humorless, violent and jaded." So says Ben McNelly, an influential Toronto broadcaster whose voice, think James Taylor after a bottle of Xanax—belies the sting of his rangers. He has a point, leaving romance, if not dead in contemporary literary novels, certainly not weaving any prisms there. But sex, death, violence and depravity, yes, but truthfully ever after? Dodo bird. "Can fiction where it's at," McNelly laments before hanging up.

A review of winners of the Oller, Canada's top prize for literature, shows that not a single winning book has a happy ending for a romantic couple since its inception in 1994. It's much the same for the Governor General's Literary Awards. Since 1936 the winners of the award have been showered in superlatives—2007 winner *Desusade*, by Michael Ondaatje, is replete with "tenderness, compassion and grace"—yet hardly any of the winning authors end with the ultimate culmination of tenderness, compassion, or grace.

"Norman was not seen as high literature right now," says Rosalind Brown, professor emerita of English at the University of Toronto. The Jane Austen ending, in which the couple wander off into the figurative or literal sunset after much hardship, has apparently become passé in the age of cynicism and cynicism. "Moderns didn't trust closure, and contemporary authors have opted for an even looser definition of ascending. It's not as much happily ever after as it is nothing ever after," Brown says.

There are two notable exceptions on the GG winners' list: Mos Def's *Black on Both Sides* and Paul Simon's *Still Crazy as the Summer*.

While Manic, which won the award in 1991 and 2003, respectively. St Urbain's Museum ends with protagonist Jake Hamsh locked in a suicidal embrace with his loving wife, after struggling with the law and his Jewish identity. In *While Manic*, the congenic Claire cannot love and averts phony from culpable refuse Desmond Howl

"We are an affectionate, optimistic and humorous people, despite what our words suggest," McNelly says. Still, the "sometimes happy endings" quoniam again stamped the *Wall Street Journal's* "Read Books Live" column's Critical Crosses. Challenged by a reader to name a few examples in literature written in the past 30 years, she imagined Anne Pringle's *The Shipping News* and Susan Orlean's *The Mummer's Wife*, she imagined *And by Andrew Law*. There are others, as McNelly will attest. *Wonderful* by Joseph O'Neill, *Identity of Knowledge* by Roger Thompson and *The Gashlycrump* by Canadian author Margaret Atwood. Or, though, in a playful, almost playful, tone, she offers up *Wormholes* by George. "At best, French Canadian novels don't finish and at worse finish badly," she says. Elizabeth Nord on Lafarge, a professor of French literature at Université de Moncton, "Lafarge was the best with negativity, especially in the ending."

The Mary Beckett Prize, awarded to authors from the Commonwealth and Ireland, is

is a quietly bleak affair. "I cannot think of a single British man who lived over roughly the past 20 years that has had a happy ending, romantic or otherwise," says Ann Quinlan, *English professor and Canonization III* (in status) at the University of Toronto. Conceder J.M. Coetzee's *Dancer*, 1999's *Disaster* winner. It is a brutal read, a memento mori to the tortured power of post-apartheid South Africa. It brags with poignancy David Lurie broke and killed, his daughter pregnant with a child conceived through rape. He is reduced to eulogizing, the days receding, near his daughter's funeral for the man of a slaveboy by her former girlfriend. Given South Africa's recent history, though, for *Dancer* to end any other way would be, well, *admirable*. "Honesty is my way, happy endings don't make for very interesting writing," says Quinlan.

It might not be a simple case of cynicism, however. "These days, it's more about reflecting than romance," says Montreal writer David Hume, whose 2003 novel *The Spanish Girl* ends more often happily-ever-after than it does getting better...not falling in love. "It's not Blaise Cendrars writing, who kill for a *Million* Celine Paris, James Frey's *Best American* that drugs, violence and corruption, without making oneself a better person. In other words, Oprah approval fiction is an extension of her TV talk show on which self-empowerment, not romance, is the ball and oval: Now don't do it, do it, do it, do it."

**THE PEEP**  
DAVID ALMOND

**FINALLY, A BOOK ABOUT... MODERN PERNACY**  
 Ife Nduduekwi's *The Prop Definer* is an entertaining look at our brave new world: a digital free-for-all making goodbyes to privacy, individuality and dignity. He examines reality TV—investigating not just who signs on for it, but what his think afterwards—social media, amateur porn, and more. Nduduekwi does his part, too: trying out for reality shows, peering on the neighbourhood, and even stripping for a Web audience he wasn't sure was watching.





AFTER 17 YEARS of hosting *The Tonight Show*, Jay Leno was joined by his successor, Conan O'Brien (left), for a final taping on May 20.

## Conan better keep Jay on the team

**O'Brien may deliver the right demographic, but mass audiences prefer the unhip Leno**

**BY JAMIE S. WEINMAN** • On his first episode of *The Tonight Show*, Conan O'Brien joked that Jay Leno would be coming back to NBC "in two days." Well, not quite that soon, but certainly the fall, O'Brien's tough predecessor will have a nightly talk show at 11 p.m. Then once again as a sign of NBC's once again lack of confidence in O'Brien, but they may be doing O'Brien a favor: O'Brien's first, lengthy episode beat *David Letterman* in the ratings. (Leno had guests a competing talk show on another network, he might have beaten Conan, just as he beats everyone else.) O'Brien said he audience that Leno is a friend and that "I'm looking forward to him being our lead-in." It's better to have him as a lead-in than competition, because audience prefer the unhip, familiar, comfortable—say, Jay Leno.

Even Leno's network didn't expect him to become popular for this long. Don't worry, though, who runs *The Late Night TV Page* (a Web resource for finding out the upcoming guests on talk shows), points out that NBC announced O'Brien as Leno's successor in 2003 "far enough ahead of time that maybe Leno thought that would be a good time to step down." But "five years' passed, and he's still number one and still enjoying." It's not hard to see why NBC might hope to keep the popularity to decrease Leno's in a show in a talk show landscape dominated by people with a hip, comic take on the times.

Most hosts have followed the example of David Letterman, who specializes in making fun of the conventions of talk shows. O'Brien, who started as a writer rather than a performer, has graciously noted Letterman's relieving the impression that he isn't a trial horse. In fact, many of his routines are based

on the self-deprecating idea that he isn't good at his job. The higher profile *Tonight Show* just gave him the chance to put himself down even more, or let others do it. His first guest, Will Ferrell, started by saying that "no one" thought Conan could possibly host this show. But none of the hipster talk-shows were high rated enough for President Barack Obama to appear on them, that honor went to Leno's show: one free hour of TV.

Instead of working at the audience's tender self-parody like late O'Brien, Leno sees it as his job to make straightforward, audience-friendly jokes. Unlike O'Brien, who still pretends to be uncomfortable as a performer, Leno told a *Newsweek* critic that he feels he's doing his job easily. Laughably, comedian who got a talk show. "I'm fortunate part of *The Tonight Show* was the opening monologue. That was a nice little thing. It's more, comforting thing, to know to before they go to bed." And outside the more sharply pointed jokes offered by Jon Stewart and occasionally Letterman, Leno's "very middle of the road." That bridge explains "It's proud of the fact that it makes a joke about a Republican. He'll make a joke about a Democrat. He's the most old-fashioned comic on television, someone whose family is light, topical jokes, good natured ribbing of cultural snobs—could come from a Bob Hope script."

O'Brien comes from a different comedy background. In his first *Tonight Show*, he kept the monologue very short, where Jay would have made 100 jokes. O'Brien did a sketch where he ran across the country to get to the studio, revealed that he had stolen the "G" out of the famous Hollywood sign, and then turned with long time sidekick Andy Richter over the loss of the term "Conan O'Brien." This surreal humor appeals more strongly to the young, urban college-aged women who stepped up to watch his old show. With the broader public, Leno was more popular than O'Brien or Letterman for the same reason: that Leno and a Half-Minute is the most popular sitcom, a straightforward joke reaches more people than an obscure, self-referential joke.

But that's why the new talk show arrangement at NBC might actually work out for the best. *Tonight* says that because younger viewers are still considered more desirable by the people who buy commercial time, NBC will be happy with O'Brien if they're going on air overall ratings but they get the overall 18 to 49 demographic. Leno's *Tonight Show* may have been the last survivor of a era where late night TV was supposed to be mass entertainment. Soon, the network will have O'Brien's *Tonight* for one group of viewers, and *The Jay Leno Show* for another, and the two groups can safely ignore each other. "My father, who is in his 70s, is a big Leno fan," *Tonight* says. "I cut guarantee he won't be watching Conan." ■



### ACCORDING TO TV

**ADRIA SOTOMAYOR** "On his radio show yesterday, Rush Limbaugh called Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor a 'yosemite yess!' I had to look it up. Limbaugh. That guy is a reverse racist!" —*Adria Sotomayor* "And despite her occasional foul language, Judge Sotomayor is going to get tough questions from the senators. But I think she'll be fine. I mean, this is a woman who spent her whole life in the courtroom, so she's used to being around criminals." —*Jay Leno*



JOE BONOMO discovered at the Calabash Festival that "there's a secret language for reading, for books, that exists on the island of Jamaica."

## Primal grunts in a literary paradise

**Award-winning novelist heads to Caribbean festival. Moose calls and madness ensues.**

**BY JOSEPH BODEN** • The Caribbean doesn't seem to shine behind him. (As their swarms of people, 2,500 strong, sit in front on chairs or on the grass at the shade, staring.) I'm surrounded. And my advanced idea into attempts something off the cuff that I've already told the crowd should be a gesture in the history of my beautiful country of Jamaica. To pull this off will take participation. I ask if they're game. A roar of approval. I can't believe I'm really going to do this.

Janet Hamilton, production director of the island's Calabash International Literary Festival, is the daughter of Perry Hazzell, the deceased movie director and producer. Her father's lady, *The Monday They Came*, became a worldwide phenomenon in large part because it introduced the rhythms of reggae to the rest of the world back when no one outside of Jamaica had much idea who Bob Marley was. Janette, along with the Jamaica writer Colson Chubb and Renee Davis, dressed up the festival eight years ago, the only high-spirited, award-winning literary festival in the Caribbean, on Jamaica's family's property on the south shore of the island, a gorgeous estate in a town called St. Elizabeth.

What started as a free festival of poetry and fiction soon led to local authors to a crowd of a couple hundred. In his second year, a few festival of international writer reading for audiences of thousands. Lawrence Hill and Michael Ondaatje are just two of the Canadian luminaries among many more who have been to this little paradise. This year's lineup includes such heavyweights as Jhumpa Lahiri, winner of a 2008 Pulitzer Prize, Edwidge Danticat, 2007's National Book Critics Circle winner, and Robert Peck, three-time poet laureate of the United States.

This year's festival doesn't didn't happen just over a month ago. It was officially cancelled for lack of funding. The two private donors had felt the pinch of the global financial meltdown. But popular outcry became so loud that the Jamaican government and now private donors stepped in. The people of this country take Calabash seriously.

"I think a lot of Jamaicans," founder and artistic director Colin Chubb told me, "publicly looked at the idea of literature in something really, a belonging to academia. But clearly, there's a secret hunger for reading, for books, that exists on the island."

The long weekend opens with a lively breeze and bright stars. Bestselling and award-winning author from Jamaica, Barbados, the Dominican Republic and then control the crowd. Books are selling and books are being read, and clothing and food are a break here now. Jackdaws, the local bar and restaurant, is packed. Hippie people come to stretch out on the beach beside the bar. I realize this is one of the rare times I've been to a literary festival where it truly feels like a celebration. The director, Melvin The Prophet, father of one Maria, brings his new film before the world but screen at midnight, a low head reading the crowd to the way hours.

The next days, too, are full of readings and music and swimming. While Caribbean lit

strains in all its forms—poetry, fiction, nonfiction to post colonial fiction to postmodern poetry—in one form at the festival, writers from all the Caribbean islands in Jamaica and Haiti and Guyana take the stage, too. One afternoon, at the close, 10-40 writers invited (including Edward King, former prime minister of Jamaica and Rachel Marley, Toronto-born daughter of the late Jamaican prime minister Michael Manley), more than half go on stage to discuss the Black Book to show the struggle against and massive inequalities.

And now I'm onstage. I've said before to audiences of two, and to audiences of hundreds, but I can't remember ever having said to this many. "Okay," I ask the crowd one more time. "Are you ready to the what I am going to say will be a fusion of the history of your beautiful country." Taking a deep breath and cupping my hands over my mouth, I believe out my best female moose call. Silence, and then the crowd shouts and claps. "I will call you 'young person now.'" I tell them. They're getting up on their feet. I catch the crowd how to do it and they moose, a great high-pitched yell. Then I catch them the great of the full moon. Good immortals, those ones. And before you know it, I have the audience doing a call and response, one side calling the cow, the other answering with a moo, a warm and blurring of the Caribbean and carrying the most general of music up and into the ether. In fact, the Calabash festival itself, a morning thing to witness. ■



### CHECK OUT PORTUGAL'S HAMMER FESTIVAL

Known for its July the Rightist, Portugal's Praia da João is known as one of the best festivals in Europe. On a warm July night, people stroll the streets of the city of Porto, taking in the music and decorations chosen are covered in colour and festival and having a good time. Then the heavens come out: the festival's premier event, with all the members of the opposite sex, on the beach with books, or even classic hammocks.

PHOTO: JONATHAN WILSON

**Revivals of Noël Coward's plays are all the rage. Just don't copy his acting style.**

[illegible]

Coward could do virtually anything: when he wrote a play, he also directed, starred, produced and composed the music; that is what he was most famous for was just being himself, or a carefully managed version of himself. Hoare says that Coward never assumed dignity and "bathed champagne," but he petrified himself to the public as someone who lived high and lived high in society. His persona, and his supposed delivery of his lines, became fixtures to people who had never seen his plays, he even had a successful solo music comedy and revue show in Las Vegas. Because his

best known for making audiences laugh, he associated with light, heartless comedy (Jill Spert's bill off a major character without a hint, and telling the audience, "sorry"). At the Shore Festival artistic director Judie Mazon was surprised "by the incredible range" Coward's work, "from comedian to music to comic villain and even director."

Coward's work on "early comic operable" in the form of light, superficial comic. One of the best plays from *Temple Air* is *So! So!* It is a comic drama about two middle-class London people having a love, doomed self-sacrifice. The hit movie *So! So! So!* (1950) was adapted into an opera circa three years by composer André Previn. And most of the plays in the cycle, whatever their style, deal with themes that run through all of Coward's plays, particularly what Hoare calls "themes of dysfunction and lack of communication [as] one act, music, shadow play, a shadow or a sign that underneath the surface, the heart is not what it seems, or that you are behind." That would I claim when there were only three or four Coward plays this season regularly performed, not that most of the work is being staged, we can get a better understanding of what it means.

Part of the reason Coward's non-comic plays weren't so much is that their association with him is an act for with his life.

Gertrude Lawrence, who co-starred with him in most of the *Thelma* (at 10 plays) could seem there to be viewed as index of an older role of theatre. Coward applied the same style of acting to all his work, comic or dramatic, and delivery of the dialogue was careful and precise, not flamboyant. (In Coward's *Second World War* movie in which I've been, he made good lead soldiers in a conscripted, stiff upper-lip manner.) That style went out of fashion in the '50s, with the arrival of method acting. Ironically, to perform these plays, you have to ignore the style of performance; Coward had it muted. "We don't update them," Maxwell says, "but the style of acting, we really don't do that these days. As far as people comparing them to Coward, I would hope that people have moved on to new, new

But when producers have rediscovered what Coward is that he can still provide a good vehicle for actors, even if they don't find the way he did. Maxwell says that the final production, *Twelfth Night* at 9:30 says in that they showcase the whole range of what actors can do. "For the audience, it's a real kick to see warhorses make those old roles so delightfully and so seriously," Coward is gone, and so is his style of acting, but what's left is a body of work that, Maxwell explains, is perfect. "To show how truly talented actors can be." He would everybody wants to put on his plays a lot less changed since Coward's time, but actors will always want to show off. ■

**TRIGGERS TIME:** When buying a bottle, what you want is the variety marked 100 per cent agave, which is the single malt of the field.

**A Mexican hotel's Tequila Library has more than 100 tip-top vintages on hand for tippling**

**BY JACOB ECKSTEIN** • Like so many other former Iron Horse huffsters, aquaponics all grown up, and having turned its back on its old best friend—the chipped, tricky shot glass—capnics instead to be contemporarily apnics from a turn-of-millennium Radcl outfit. And that's exactly where I'd end it one recent afternoon at the upfly Rivers Maya resort (Hoscow Mapadoke, in the pleasant confines of n Agave Azul New Bar and Tequila Library, which has more than 200 different up to tequila varieties on hand for pipeline.

Artist was, because the hard food and the single degree Degree Wine had opened up my top layers early to personality order. It was through a private testing of some of his most notable offerings, and this was not an average he was taking highly. While aware, my arrival he had required a small display (one at a time, maybe oiled by, despite) with a colorful hand-drawn shirt, flanked by a half dozen beads across the top, and a thin, arranged an array of tasting glasses. The right-hand glasses the very same. I designed turned number that was also on the Official Tasting Glass by the Consejo Regio leader old. Despite any its introduction back in 2007. "This was paler my favorite," Weiss remarked as he got ready to pour. "It keeps at the true through of the nose."

Take a slug of this fresh stuff and you are drinking "wine." Served as a little caramelized sweetener and mellow things slightly, and in the process, impose a deep change of colour to give the appearance of age—and you're got "gold." Put it aside instead in an oak barrel for two months or more and you get responsibly leave it there for over a year and the tequila is called *añejo*. Any longer and the expensive brew is commonly dubbed a reserve.

The only other thing you really need to know is that a bottle marked with the label *nitroquin* inside merely indicates that part S of the cocktail of the distillate within need be derived from the blue agave—the prime succulent in all of the mesquite possibilities. What you've obtained in the variety marked 100 per cent agave, which is the single rash of the field. What "nitroquin" will be very enough about the origin and to be generally of little interest to anyone but the skirt distillers. No the themselves, and university students. But when 100 per cent agave nitroquin—nearly as blue as the blue agave—was obtained. When has returned—the trace expressions of the complex and enigmatic flavors of the blue agave. And, fortunately, in the Laboratory last bottle in 100 per cent agave.

So what has your father and we walked into the base after from Hidalgo, a relative new

corner to the tropical scene that has been the staple of modern and a later-in-view at the last two World Spirits Competitions—no mean feat. Also, they did not win either one: it's a shame and curiosity but ends a little too sweetly, and while—as that old Mexican expression goes—you would not bucket out of the liquor cabinet for getting the shelfside—you would not set it near while reading Joan Baez on the beach either. But sure we try Mula (no old school barrel especially—and it resides over the tongue like the lightest vapor, copple and smoky, with a line rumble of alcohol). The abject incorporation is even more intriguing, with woody notes and a monstrous, angoric finish.

There we dip into a Doris-Jakey scented cold hot, which is *quar* and smoothies, but with a mysteriously large hint of Nect. However, it is the *luminous* (pink) Jose Cuervo, which has a most enticing lightness to its Pineno-grain. And then we created (instead of *luminous*) the *unofficial* (Hershey's Selection Supreme) citrus *apple*, which is exquisitely supple and complex, with lovely woodsy notes and an incredibly slow progression of flavors.

Alas, you will not taste certainly not find these here. And you will not taste it either, because when you take the typical opaque Canadian government-ordered markup that turns a seemingly decent tequila into over \$100 plus purchase, and apply that to the top premium tequila category, you would not get to taste the sensible thing and buying a place (like) on the source instead. ■

## PERFORMANCE OF THE WEEK - CONTORTION

"Don't try this at home." That's what British comfort-food guru Luvvingsood told the *crème* before she held her entire body weight by her mouth for 22 seconds, setting a new world record last month. The improbably bendy pose she used is called the "Marinelli bend" (the mouth grips onto a chair's post for support, while the entire body snakes around into an inverted back bend). But don't worry, says the 28-year-old—"it's not painful."

This will be confusing to some because white—or silver—topgala is also the least expensive edition of any particular brand or type. Like the reasoning is simple: unlike say, real whisky, of which what is called the “middle cut” or “new make” emerges from the spirit still in a palate-scorching state that requires years to mellow in a wooden cask before even

**TODAY'S SPECIAL... PRINCIPLES**

It's the stonking question: are Pringles really potato chips? According to the British Court of Appeal, the answer is yes. Manufacturer Procter & Gamble had argued that, since Pringles were baked from dough, they were more like a non-starch cake. After listening to arguments on whether the tubed snacks have a sufficient quality of "potato-ness" to qualify as potato chips, a panel of judges ruled they do indeed, making them taxable under British law.

IN THE MOVIE *One Second After*, there's "sudden silence" after an electromagnetic pulse attack. Everything computerized shuts down.

## So your bank account's wiped out

Given our massive debt load, this fictional apocalyptic scenario's not looking that bad



MARK STEYN

"Hey, Dad, something strange."  
"Yeah."  
"Lame!"  
"He used to travel for a moment. It was a quiet spring evening, stormy except for a few birds chirping, the distant bark of a dog—rather nice, actually."  
"I don't hear anything!"  
"That's it, Dad! There's no traffic noise from the interstate."  
"He turned and faced toward the road. It was concealed by the trees... but she was right; there was absolute silence. When he had first purchased the house, she had been one disappointed he had not thought of while inspecting it; but was aware of the first night in, the rumble of traffic from the interstate was half a mile away. The only time it fell silent was in the winter during a snowstorm, or an accident..."

"More likely the accident's further on, and people were told to pull over and wait," he said.

"Her eyes nodded. It was almost eerie how often you'd hear something, a police siren if there was an accident, cars passing on old Highway 70 should still be passing by."

"And then he looked up. He felt a bit of a chill."

"This time of day any high flying jet would be pulling contrails."

But there aren't any contrails, or jets. It's America's "one second after," to use the title of William R. Forstchen's novel.

One *Second After* what? After an EMP attack? What? EMP? "Electromagnetic pulse." You're on a ship hundreds of miles off the coast. You're

across the ocean, and you lose radio. Don't worry, it doesn't hit Cleveland, or even Winnipeg. Instead, it's somewhere 300 miles up in the sky at a point roughly over the middle of the continent. No man-made cloud, no fallout, you don't even see it. That's the "one and" in *One Second After* and what comes after. America (and presumably parts of Canada south of Yellowstone) circa 1875—before Edison. The cars on the interstate stop because they all run on computers, except for Grandma's 1918 Ford. And so do the phones and fridges and pretty much everything else. If you were taking a harpist bend when your Toyota Camry conked out, don't bother the local emergency room; they're computerized, too. And, if you've only got \$27.43 in your purse, better make it last. The ATM won't be working, and anyway whatever you had in your account just vanished with the computer screen.

Mr. Forstchen tells his tale with matter-of-factly sound high-tech plausibility (and futuristic vision). *One Second After* is set in small-town North Carolina, but the machinations of Anyburg, U.S.A. are all there—the sub, the show on the upstate local officials, gangs of neo-fascists, the usual conflict between well-to-do and the types and the useless old hippies. I liked this passage:

"What a world we once had," he sighed.  
"The parking lot of the bank at the next corner was overflowing with vehicles, though cars were being held back a bit by children from the religious center phoning out their donations they use and carrying them." And at that point I stopped thinking of

*One Second After* as a microthriller narrative, and more in geopolitical terms. After all, the books in America and western Europe are already metaphorically seed-chilled, and may yet become literally so. In the Wall Street Journal's couple of months back, Hugo Moonan predicted that by next year the mayor of New York "in a variation on broken-window theory, will quietly enact a bright-light theory, demanding that developers leave the lights on whether there are tenants in the buildings or not, lest the world stand on a rise in New Jersey and get the impression an on's been and nobody cares"—or, to put it another way, lest the world stand on a rise in New Jersey and get the impression Manhattan's already been hit by an EMP attack. A literal infinite use his broker in February and asked him where he stood, believing his money, expecting to be pointed in the direction of various under-published

His broker advised him to look for a remote property with a long growing season

stocks or perhaps some aridly leveraged investment north enough to fly below the Obama radar. His broker, wearing a stare when he asked to look, advised him to look for a remote location and a property he could pay for with and with enough cleared land and along growing season. My friend lived in rural wilderness in Martha's Vineyard, so this wasn't exactly what he wanted to hear.

And this is before EMP hits. So it separates our bank accounts. What's in them? Money, really. The average American household is carrying \$121,951 in personal debt. What would be so bad if something really happened and all the money got reset to zero? And Joe Schmo's credit card

debt is so nothing, compared to what the government's signed him up for. USA Today recently calculated that the average American household is on the hook for \$346,668 in federal debt—i.e., not including state and municipal. The Adams crushed the numbers further and realized that, to pay off the debt, the average household would have to win an annual cheque for \$23,373. U.S. median household income is \$50,000, before taxes—and that \$26,000 cheque assumes no further increase in federal and personal liabilities.

Critics of USA Today's methodology say they've conflated two separate things—hard government debt, and the rather more amorphous obligations of Medicare, social security and other unsustainable entitlement programs. But, insofar as debt's a distinction with a difference, it's the entitlement that's harder to tough off. A couple of decades down the road, Green's public pension liabilities will be approaching 25 per cent of GDP for the political class, it's assets default on foreign debt and risk unknown consequences that range from social conservatism and ensure the certainty of violent annexations. As attractive it might be to let separate powers to get out dog food, it's not politically feasible in a democracy in which they're the most ideologically vindictive demographic group.

Besides, in a society that's all but blinded and the concept of moral hazard, who's it entitled to corporate largesse? The North American auto industry pays its workers so much that it's unable to make cars at a price anywhere's prepared to pay first. So naturally it's been delivered into the corporate control of the very same unions who demand those salaries. Under the "Inland Canadian bailout," "second parties" requires that auto workers who make \$70 per hour be subsidised by taxpayers making less than a third thereof. It's unreasonable to expect a guy on 70 bucks an hour to make groves

and for a while, it's should anyone else? The advanced Western democracy has, in effect, jammed the lemons of time and spatial reality. America lives beyond the means of its 300 million citizens to pay for it, so passes the check to its children and grandchildren. Most of the rest of the West does the same, but does geographically has no loads to rock it to.

Professor Glenn Reynolds, America's foremost, noted that USA Today figure of \$668,611 federal personal debt per household and observed wryly: "Debt that can't be repaid won't be repaid." Or to extend the old saw: If you owe the bank a thousand dollars, you have a problem. If you owe the bank a million dollars, the bank has a problem. If everyone owes a million dollars, individual survival has a problem. When I first heard about EMP, a few years back, the big worry was that in a couple seconds a small number of trillions of dollars of wealth. From the perspective of 2009, wiping out millions of dollars of debt has something to commend it.

Published more or less simultaneously with William Forstchen's *EMPocalypse* now is *Soft Desperation: Democracy's Debt* by Paul A. Hulse, a scholarly analysis of Montezuma, Rousseau, Tocqueville and their lessons for us today. The book is concerned at least in part with the relationship between the modern state and technology. Professor Hulse cites Tocqueville's observation on absolute monarchies, when he said: "I never almost without tears—on the very last in practice, wrote Tocqueville, 'desires never did it happen that they make use of it.' They lacked the necessity; they were in their present bond of sympathy and the Majesty was in his place hundreds of miles away, and 'the deeds of social life and of individual existence ordinarily escaped his control.'" Not anymore: regulations for cars, permits for that, government identity numbers for every transaction, computer records for every business transaction of commerce, fulfilling Tocqueville's vision of an administrative

MAGAZINE'S BESTSELLERS		
COMPILED BY ADAM BELL		
Fiction		
1 THE TIME FOR THE TRADITIONALLY BUILT	240	
by Alexander McCall Smith		
2 THE LITTLE STRANGER	410	
by Susan Wilton		
3 THE CHILDREN'S BOOK	110	
by A.S. Byatt		
4 MY FATHER'S TEARS	90	
by John Updike		
5 THE SWEETNESS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PIE	100	
by Alan Bradley		
6 THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO	1000	
by Stieg Larsson		
7 BROOKLYN	800	
by Colm Tóibín		
8 NIGHTMARE	700	
by Karen Joy Williams		
9 THE WINTER WALK	600	
by Anne Michaels		
10 FIVY	500	
by Chuck Palahniuk		
Non-fiction		
1 WHY YOUR WORLD IS ABOUT TO GET A WHOLE LOT SMALLER	1100	
by Jeff Bezos		
2 SLOW ORIGIN	400	
by Bill Bryson and Bruce Lewis		
3 OUTLIERS	300	
by Malcolm Gladwell		
4 ALWAYS LOOKING UP	200	
by Michael J. Fox		
5 THE PLAINSMAN AND THE FLOOD	100	
by Alan de Botton		
6 THE LIPS	90	
by Colin Lyndon and John Young		
7 THE COLD BLOOD	800	
by Eric Lipton		
8 STEPHEN LEACOCK	700	
by Michael Leacock		
9 THE FIRST CITY OF Z	600	
by David Gribble		

LAST WEEK'S COVERS ON DISPLAY

desperation in which all the thing's subjects could be made subordinate to the details of a uniform set of regulations." As the "bells" and "whistles" pile up, so the more regulatory regime will naturally.

At least until the EMP attack. I'm not suggesting it's the solution to all our problems. Just saying that, compared to the various other options for advanced democratic society, William Forstchen's apocalyptic scenario may be one of those 1930s time machine where you wind up rooting for the creature. M

## GREAT JOURNEYS IN THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE

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DIAGNOSIS LOCUS: Billy Bob Thornton, Jennifer Aniston, Andy Rooney, Gary Bassey and pretty much every person after three hours

## Bitterness is our birthright, people

**Psychiatry now calls it an illness, but if being bitter is wrong why did God create blogs?**



SCOTT FESCHKE

The world's authoritative text on mental health is the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*. Updated by psychiatrists since the 1950s, it lists all the ways in which humans can be insane, and therefore features every big word and second photograph of Gary Bassey.

The book—known among mental health professionals as the DSM, because that's quicker to say than *Big Book of Crazy*—was recently being revised and expanded by the American Psychiatric Association. Eight new mental illnesses are being considered for inclusion in the next edition. This is very controversial, and not just because everything says *Piss this off* in this

According to reports, the up and coming disorders vying to make the cut are:

**Sex Addiction:** Defined as "a pattern of repeated acts of infidelity involving a combination of men who are experienced by the individual as things to be used" this disorder would clearly fit mentally ill several former U.S. presidents, all former first ladies and every man ever featured in a *Guys* Light commercial.

**Binge Eating:** This is described by psychiatrists as "a serious disorder in which you frequently consume unusually large amounts of food." Sociologists indicate the "disorder" afflicts one out of every one Keville Alley.

**Psychological Hoarding:** Long considered a symptom of obsessive compulsive disorder, hoarding is on its way to being its very own syndrome. Beggars just can't let go. Think of old people with stacks of magazines from 1942 or Stephen Harper with power

Internet Addiction: According to the APA, this addition "consists of at least three subtypes: excessive gaming, sexual preoccupations, and/or social networking." This raises a number of questions, such as how the APA gained access to my browser history.

And the list goes on: Do you go shopping a lot? You have a mental disorder. Are you "pathologically" biased in your views? You have a mental disorder. Are huge quantities of food disappearing from your fridge at night? You have a mental disorder—or maybe O'Donnell is a house guest. Either way, you're deeply troubled.

If some psychiatrists get their way, there will be yet one more affliction added: being bitter. Apparently, bitterness is not just a feeling we all have at some point—it's a mental illness! Rephrasing Andy Rooney, Ruth Lane taught us Squidward from *Simpsons*—they're all insane. So are Billy Bob Thornton, Jennifer Aniston and every person in the world after three hours.

Under proposed changes, the state of being bitter will be officially classified as post-traumatic embitterment disorder. One does not require the German psychiatrist who started the affliction as saying of his soldiers, "It's one step more complex than anger. They're angry plan helpers." Angry plan helpers? In North America we refer to that condition as "looking at our RSPS statements."

Enough already! Bitterness is the birthright of every citizen and the default state of every Baldwin. It's a sign that we are alert and awake to the variety of ways in which our world is conspiring against us. I ask the American Psychiatric Association: if being consumed by a sense of inequity is wrong, why did God create blogs and aliens?

I suppose it could be argued that psychiatrists are just keeping up with the times. The 21st century is all about feeling special. We're bewitched by people following our hosts of adjectives and adjectives on Twitter. Our kids are handed Olympic culture medals for finishing a 2K run flat. People as special as us can't just be mental or unwilling to exercise self-interest—we have to be ill.

Yet reality's had habit is today's mental disorder. And today's mental disorder is tomorrow's pharmaceutical solution. It's a good bet that by the time the new DSM is published in 2012, drug companies will have created new pills for those new disorders, complete with new side effects involving even larger and more dangerous venoms. The *New England Journal of Medicine* recently discovered that more than half of the 117 psychiatrists working on the DSM have ties to the pharmaceutical industry. One U.S. professor-led DSM working group in which "every single person has ties" to drug companies.

But at a moment when good old-fashioned bitterness is being redefined as a disorder, perhaps it's opinion that's the real mental illness. There's no good reason to feel it. There's no rational excuse for expressing it.

Feel real, those of sunny disposition. I'm sure they're looking on a pill to "cure" you. In the meantime, to prevent serious injury be sure to immediately consult your psychiatrist if you experience a smile lasting longer than five hours.

So my grandfathers, the American Psychiatric Association: you have catalogued the full range of human behaviour, and defined almost everyone of them as crazy. Continue chasing us as hard as they like to our feelings about our mothers. ■

ON THE WEB: To read Feschke on the Internet, visit his blog [macleans.ca/feschke](http://macleans.ca/feschke)

## GORDON ERNEST THOMAS

1962-2009

**Born with a congenital heart defect, he couldn't play sports, so he helped other athletes excel**

Gordon Ernest Thomas was born on April 7, 1962, at the small Ottawa Valley town of Pembroke. He was the eldest child of Doris, an Eggenville native, and Ernest, a mail carrier who resided at CFB Petawawa. Shortly after the birth of their daughter Pip, Doris, a generalist nurse, began dropping things—the keys to the car, a glass of water. Doris, Pip slipped from her hands as she lifted her from the crib. Horrified, Doris visited the hospital, where she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. In 1966, she was admitted permanently to St. Vincent Hospital in Ottawa. Gordie, as the boy came to be known, was not shy of tears.

Born with a congenital heart defect—a hole in his heart and a leaky valve—he was fighting a continual battle of illness. Gordie would not live past 20, said the chief cardiologist at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children. Take that and small for his age, with pale, almost translucent skin and occasionally blue lips, Gordie knew he was sick. But Ernest kept the grim prognosis from him until he was a teen.

Friday, Ernest left the house, where he worked in a shop at noon. He'd tag to St. Vincent, hand-deliver Doris into their pale blue Volkswagen bug, and, as the kids' delight, have her home by late afternoon. At noon, Sunday, he'd make the reverse trip. Perhaps because his game was so sick, Gordie stuck to basketball like glue. Ernest had been made sergeant, but he was no basketball missionary, and was gentle with his kids. And both husband and children continued to care for him, who by the time Gordie was nine could no longer see or speak and could only communicate with her episode (she would die in 1971). "Do you want anything, Mommy?" Gordie would ask. If she closed her eyelids, he'd have to guess: most often, the second for chips.

In 1976, Ernest Jr. referred to Ottawa, installing the family in a bungalow in suburban Vanier. Gordie became a constant presence at the Bernard Greenbriar hockey arena, and would have to be dragged home for dinner or bed. "His kid wants to give us a hand!" a rink hand pulled one day—and so began Gordie's career as an equipment manager. "He couldn't play sports himself," says friend Pierre Houde. "This was his way of participating." By 15, the one-time water boy, who left high school after undergoing open heart surgery in Grade 10, was working for the Ottawa Jr. Senators, a junior A hockey club, and at 21, for the Canadian Football League's Ottawa Rough Riders (in 1996, when the team added a franchise in

Shawport, L.A., a key cog in the CFL's failed U.S. expansion, Gordie went for the seniors, too). Given a tough job, if a player's not happy, then he isn't in house, their skates aren't sharp, their pants don't fit—they're not going to play well. Gordie also did their sweaty laundry, with a special eye enough to bring steel to his eyes, and packed it up for road trips. For the Roughriders, that meant 70 bags, plus 30 more in colder months.

To Roughriders, the clubhouse—which Gordie kept spotless—was a "safe haven" from fans, wives and screaming coaches, says Jim

Hempel, who was also behind the Riders bench. Sometimes Gordie, who never bought a suit, and kept the somewhat Vanier apartment for 16 years, was there folding laundry till 4 a.m. During team outings, 20-hour days were not uncommon.

For 21 years, Gordie also ran the skate-sharpening stand at the Sandy Hill Arena—home of the Sandy Hill Wolves University hockey players—occasionally finding about their skates—then was Ernest's top shop (Prince Minister Stephen Harper's son-in-law, a member of many level executives). With the steady hand of an old pro, Gordie would run the skate sideways up and down the stone, sparks flying around him, throwing the hot blade to gauge the edge. At 18 ft, after hanging up the last shirt, he'd hand to Derringer, a former winning hole-in-one master of reggies and a Wednesday night wing

special. Robert Bly would wait him on a bed of ice. "Gordie had warm beer," explains former under Jonathan Hood.

Two years ago, Gordie, who had retired a half-dozen cardiologists, finally began to live. Doctors lined up open-heart surgery for January 2008, to replace a valve. Gordie consented there to hold it until April—after hockey season. When doctors did open him up, his heart was the size of a football. He fought a flurry of complications following surgery, and, after coming out of a coma, had to learn to walk again. To cheer him on, the Sandy Hill Wolves surprised him with a No. 1 jersey with "Gordie" on the back. He was on duty as when he developed bowel problems, and doctors had to perform a colostomy. When, this spring, they went in to remove it, Gordie was infirmed with C. difficile. His bowel performed well and he was unable to fight off the dual infections, although on May 7, Gordie did walk out of his room for porridge and a Pepsi. He died in hospital on May 14. He was 47.

BY NANCY MACDONALD

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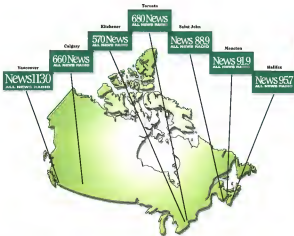
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